

Britain demanding compensation for stranded drivers

As the French lorry blockade tightened, Britain pressed France for compensation. Up to 300 British lorry drivers are thought trapped. Bankruptcy faces many small firms.

British consuls were trying to reach drivers spending their seventh night in sub-zero temperatures. Trust House Forte was planning a meals lorry from Geneva.

The French Government offered a wide package of concessions to the drivers whose response was to triple the blockades. Some 6,300 juggernauts are now involved.

Industry, tourists and food supplies are being hit elsewhere. The Brenner Pass, West Germany's main artery to Italy is clogged by 1,300 lorries protesting at the customs men's go slow.

By David Nicholson-Lord, Michael Bailey and Diana Geddes in Paris

Britain is pressing the French Government for compensation for the hundreds of British lorry-drivers stranded with their cargoes in France by the French lorry-drivers' blockade. Over £2m may be involved, rising to £250,000 each day as many smaller British haulage firms are threatened with bankruptcy.

The Government's approach to the French authorities, initially through their ambassador in London, was revealed in the Commons yesterday as the effects of the blockade worsened and the Opposition called for stranded motorists and drivers to be offered an airlift out.

Many British drivers in the Alps last night spent their seventh night in sub-zero temperatures and without sight of British consuls, despite attempts by the latter to reach them. They are being fed locally but some dare not leave their cabs and money is running low.

The hotels group, Trust House Forte, last night announced that it was sending a lorry with enough food and drink for 400 meals from the Des Bergues hotel in Geneva, which THF owns, to about 100 lorry drivers stranded at Salanches, near Chamonix, on the French side of the Mont Blanc tunnel.

The group said it was responding to appeals and had considered an airlift using its airport catering service at Heathrow. A spokesman added: "We would still have to get the supplies from the airport at Geneva. We are not absolutely certain that we can get through, but we are going to try."

Despite wide-ranging concessions to the lorry-drivers announced by the French Government, the drivers yesterday tripled their blockades, cutting off Charles de Gaulle international airport and barricading the main Paris to Lyons railway. Some 6,300 juggernauts are now taking part in 150 road blocks round the country.

Despite an initial welcome to the package of concessions from the French road haulage organizations, rank-and-file drivers immediately demanded fresh talks on unmet demands before lifting the blockade. The French Cabinet yesterday declared it wanted a "gesture of goodwill" before resuming negotiations.

Another 4,000 trucks are thought to be affected in Germany, Italy and Austria and 23,500 French Peugeot car workers have been laid off because parts have not arrived. This could rise to 40,000 today if the blockade continues. At the French-Italian border where the trouble started, Italian customs officials were continuing their work-to-rule.

According to reports reaching London yesterday, a British driver was beaten up outside Marseille, a British lorry has its tyres slashed by French strikers at Montelimar, and another British driver was taken to hospital after being driven from his cab by tear gas shells fired by French riot police on Tuesday. A Dutch truck driver was wounded overnight on Tuesday when a frustrated motorist fired a hunting rifle.

The British road haulage industry, which is preparing a multi-million pound claim against the French Government, yesterday expressed growing concern about possible bankruptcies among small firms. About 300 British lorries are thought to be immobilized: one Essex firm, Martrucks, of Grays, has almost half its 25-strong fleet stranded in the blockade.

Mr Freddie Plaskett, director-general of the Road Haulage Association, representing 12,000 hauliers, said there appeared to be a good case for compensation from the French Government in view of the precedent of English lamb in France.

In the Commons, Mr Malcolm Rifkind, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, said the Government had made clear to France, through Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, in Paris, its "great concern" for the welfare of stranded Britons.

He disclosed that the question of compensation had been raised with the French Ambassador on Tuesday by Mr Ray Whitney, Under-Secretary at the Foreign Office. A reply was awaited.

The French Government promised further talks with their hauliers on March 1 in its response on Tuesday. Among concessions it has made are guarantees for a permanent passage across the Franco-Italian frontier; concessions on toll charges; relaxation of maximum driving hours rules; and £670,000 compensation to hauliers for losses suffered in the dispute.



MacGregor knocked over at pit protest



Mr Ian MacGregor, the National Coal Board chairman, was knocked to the ground as angry miners surged round him at the Ellington colliery, Northumberland, yesterday.

Mr MacGregor, aged 71, lay dazed for several seconds before being helped to his feet and into a waiting car. He was obviously shaken.

The tyres on Mr MacGregor's Rover had been let down, its paint scratched and windscreen wipers removed.

Earlier, 400 jeering miners had besieged an office where he met colliery officials. They demanded a meeting with Mr MacGregor, which he refused. His offer to meet a delegation was rejected.

When he went to leave the police lined a path, but the crowd surged forward and a low fence behind him collapsed. Mr MacGregor fell to the ground, with several people on him.

He was then driven to the NCB headquarters at Team Valley, Gateshead, for lunch.

The office blockade had forced Mr MacGregor to cancel an underground trip and lunch at Ellington, the North-east's most profitable pit which runs six miles under the North Sea.

The demonstrators, angry that Mr MacGregor avoided them at the main gates by using a different entrance, were protesting about the planned loss of 600 jobs this year at Bates colliery in Blyth, near by.

The Northumberland miner's president, Mr Dennis Murphy, said the union did not plan to apologize to Mr MacGregor.

Unions face defeat on GCHQ

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

Union leaders go to Downing Street today in a pessimistic mood feeling that they have been unable to persuade the Prime Minister to drop her proposed ban on unions at the Cheltenham communications headquarters.

While publicly stating their optimism that compromise proposals put to Mrs Thatcher will be sufficient to satisfy the Government there would in future be no industrial disruption at GCHQ, union officials are not hopeful.

The unions yesterday confirmed their belief that the Prime Minister's assertion that more than half of the employees at GCHQ had agreed to forgo union membership was an over-estimation. They issued figures claiming that at most, 3,000 out of more than 7,000 staff had signed.

Union concessions, page 2

Police chiefs seek 80mph speed limit

By Michael Bailey, Transport Editor

An 80mph speed limit on motorways, together with tougher driving tests and wider police powers against drinking drivers, were urged by Britain's chief constables in evidence to the Commons transport committee yesterday.

They want more resources put into traffic law enforcement and the simplification of regulations which are so complicated that even policemen cannot understand them, the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) says.

Speed limits in Britain were in "a mess" and urgently needed revising. Many were retained merely for historical reasons and have become unrealistic. There was a case for raising the speed limit on motorways to 80mph their evidence says.

Driving tests should be made much more extensive and rigorous, and fitness tests on

Trustees to keep veto at Reuters

By Philip Robinson

Trustees of Reuters, the news agency planning a £1 billion stock market debut in May, have approved a plan to protect its integrity and independence.

Through a new company, Reuters Founders Share Company, 14 trustees will control one share of the news agency which will be empowered to outvote all others.

The Agreement of Trust (1941) will have to be rewritten to change the existing rules. At one time it was thought that Lord Lane, the Lord Chief Justice, would need to be consulted, but in a House of Lords debate this month it was made clear that neither the office of Lord Chief Justice, nor Lord Lane had an obligation to intervene.

A legally enforceable framework will now be established to ensure that the principles of the trust are observed.

Powers built in, page 19

Mercy trips by diplomats

By Patricia Clough

British consular officials were yesterday trudging through the bitter cold and snow along lines of blocked lorries in the French and Italian Alps searching for British lorry drivers in distress.

One official, dispatched from the consulate in Lyons reported that he had located about 50 drivers living in "very unpleasant conditions" in a jam by the end of the Frejus Tunnel, but so far had found no serious cases of hardship.

Mr Alan Payne, the Consul General in Lyons, told *The Times*: "The depressing thing is there is no prospect of any break ahead for them."

Numerous other drivers are believed to be stranded in another jam near the Mont Blanc Tunnel.

Mr Graham Romaine, a vice-consul had found a girl who had received news that her father was seriously ill in Britain and had rushed her in a dramatic five and a half hour journey through a blizzard to Geneva airport, he said.

Mr Brian Bubb, another vice-consul from Lyons, had been sleeping at night in the cabs of lorries stranded high up on the Mont Blanc. Both vice-consuls have been up there since Monday, and they have not been getting more than two hours sleep a night, Mr Payne said.

The lorry drivers were being fed by the local population and by bars and cafes near by. Some had been able to unhook their cabs from their loads and drive to the nearest villages to eat. One or two had even found warm accommodation.

The British Consul in Milan left Aosta yesterday in search of some 300 British drivers reported stuck on the Italian side.

"The drivers are being fed from soup kitchens and given food vouchers by the local authorities," a spokesman said.

Drivers in both France and Italy were running short of cash. The Consul General in Lyons had made arrangements for firms to send out money.

Israel's PLO claims make Muslims fear Beirut attack

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

nian camps and Muslim slums, however, Israel's claims constitute a dangerous obsession that could lead to air strikes against their homes.

Some of the reports from Israel are simply untrue. A claim that 2,000 guerrillas have returned to Beirut - later reduced to 1,400 - appears to have no basis, although the Palestinian rebel leader, Mr Abu Saleh, who defeated Mr Yasser Arafat's forces in Lebanon last year, is believed to have asked Mr Nabih Berri, the Amal militia leader, for permission to return to Beirut on three separate occasions. Mr Berri turned him down every time.

The latest Israeli report to claim that the PLO was reappearing in Beirut came in the daily newspaper *Haaretz*, which alleged that United States, British, French and Italian embassies in Lebanon had all received a memorandum containing details of PLO redeployment in the Lebanese capital, complete with maps of the areas involved. The article also stated that the PLO was about to move into its former headquarters in Corniche Mazraa.

But the American embassy stated yesterday that it had received no such document, while the British embassy has no knowledge of any memorandum about the PLO. When I visited the PLO's former offices on Corniche Mazraa yesterday afternoon, I found no gunmen inside.

Curiously, there were Hebrew inscriptions and several spray-painted Stars of David on the first-floor walls - uncleared since the Israeli Army camped in the apartments in 1982 - but Continued on back page, col 5

London police test water cannons

By Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

British-built water cannon, delivered to the Metropolitan Police, have been evaluated for riot control. Their use has not until now been part of the police tactics in the United Kingdom, the Home Office said last night.

Scotland Yard declined to comment and the Home Office would give no technical details of the cannon, beyond saying they were two prototypes.

The reason given by the Home Office was that, after tests had been studied, specifications might change. It is not known how long the evaluation will last but 18 months to two years is thought possible.

The tests follow riots in Britain and elsewhere and an announcement by Mr William Whitelaw, then Home Secretary, in July 1981 when he said: "There may be extreme circumstances in which further equipment may be required in dealing with riots. We have therefore decided to make available to chief officers for the conduct of operations, a range of alternatives."

He said that different types of water cannon were being looked at by police forces to see which might suit their needs. CS gas and plastic bullets should also be available as a very last resort under strict control.

News that the water cannon are being evaluated came in a Commons written reply to Mr Jeremy Corbyn, Labour MP for Islington North. He told *The Times* last night: "I think this is a very bad idea. It is very aggressive form of policing and crowd control. Injuries have been caused in West Germany by the use of water cannon."

Labour leaders to boycott Dimbleby

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

Labour Party leaders decided yesterday to refuse to be interviewed by the broadcaster David Dimbleby because of his dispute with the National Union of Journalists (NUJ) over his decision to move the printing of his west London newspapers to a non-union plant.

The party's national executive committee supported a motion drafted by the NUJ calling on members of the Labour Party and trade unions "to refuse to speak to David Dimbleby until he ceases his association with the anti-union T. Bailey Forman empire."

The decision of the Dimbleby group to switch its printing to TBF, the Nottingham printer, led to a strike by journalists at his newspapers. A House of Lords judgment is expected soon on an NUJ appeal against a ruling that the strike was unlawful.

Yesterday's decision is not binding on Labour leaders, but it is unlikely that they would defy it.

Mr Dimbleby, who has a freelance contract with the BBC, will make his next appearance on March 19, presenting the Budget Day programme, in which it was expected that he would interview Mr Roy Hattersley, Labour's deputy leader and shadow Chancellor.

That will not happen, Mr Hattersley said last night: "I will abide by the NEC decision." So it was made clear last night, would Mr Neil Kinnock, the party leader.

Mr Eric Heffer, the party chairman, said: "The decision means that if I am asked to go on the programme with David Dimbleby I do not go."

Journalists at the BBC have rejected a call from their union not to work with Mr Dimbleby. Mr Dimbleby said last night that he was surprised by the Labour Party decision because the NUJ chapel (office branch) with which he worked most closely, that at the BBC, had voted to work with him, after hearing both sides of the story.

The BBC declined to comment last night.

The Labour executive also decided yesterday to have a special meeting on March 7 to discuss the draft manifesto put forward by the Confederation of European Socialist Parties for the European elections in June.

Labour will also produce its own manifesto. An early draft prepared by the party's research staff was not to the liking of the international committee and has been sent back for revision.

Ford strike call over Thames foundry closure

A strike call to Ford's 57,000 car workers was issued yesterday after the company refused to reverse its decision to close the loss-making Thames foundry at Dagenham by April next year (Our Labour Reporter writes).

The 19,000 work force at Dagenham, which has already voted for the action, is to start an indefinite stoppage on March 5. Mass meetings are to follow at the company's 18 other major plants.

The strike is also in response to the company's announcement yesterday that a replacement engine for middle-range models, such as the Sierra, will be manufactured in Germany and the United States.

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TOMORROW

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The Times Guide to the US primaries

Message parlours
Licence to massage: eye there's the rub

Davis Cup
Rex Bellamy previews Britain's Davis Cup match against Italy

South Africa
David Watt on South African foreign policy after the Mozambique Accord

Royal date
Miles Kingston on the protocol for a princely girlfriend

Dounreay delay censured

Lack of government control has been blamed for £19m delays in the development of the Dounreay nuclear reactor. The Controller and Auditor General said neither the Department of Energy nor the atomic energy authority had bothered to discover the financial consequences of the delay. The reactor is now nine years behind schedule.

Action sought to curb pollution

More money should be spent on controlling pollution, according to a royal commission report which recommends a ban on straw burning and a move towards nuclear power.

Iran attack

Iran claimed to have advanced within artillery range of the main Baghdad-Basra road after launching a large-scale attack on Iraqi positions.

Gunman sought

A third IRA gunman is being hunted after an SAS operation in County Antrim, Northern Ireland, in which two terrorists and a soldier were killed.

Airbus move

The Government is under increased pressure to provide £437m to launch aid for Airbus A320, the European airline venture, after the Bonn Cabinet approved DM 1,500m (£470m) for the project.

Grenada charge

Seven people were charged with the murder of Maurice Bishop, the former Prime Minister of Grenada.

Torture claim

A white former student leader told a court how he was hooded, given electric shocks and beaten by South African security police.

Hongkong hope

The ninth round of talks opened between Britain and China over Hongkong, with the Chinese apparently hopeful about general agreement by mid-year.

Threat to Tests

Student leaders in Pakistan have threatened to disrupt the coming Test series against England unless the military government lifts a proscription on students' unions.

Leader page 13

Letters: On Antarctica, from Sir Donald Logan; political funds, from Mr J. C. Griffiths; royal broadcasts, from Mr J. Enoch Powell, MP

Leading articles: Pay round, Iowa, Environment Royal Commission

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The Italian prime minister puts Nato in a world context; a Falklands balance sheet; Franghais strikes again. Spectrum: Profile of Sir Kenneth MacMillan

Obituary, page 14

Sir Arthur Hope-Jones. Mr Norman Rimmer

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Reprimand for captain of Fearless

From Our Correspondent Portsmouth

Captain Roger Trussell, the commanding officer of the assault ship HMS Fearless, was reprimanded yesterday after being found guilty by a Portsmouth court martial of negligently allowing his ship to be hazarded, when it collided in fog with a German vessel in the Channel.

Captain Trussell, aged 43, had admitted failing to ensure that he was adequately informed of the shipping situation in restricted visibility.

Both ships were slightly damaged in the collision, off Portland last September. Lieutenant-Commander Timothy Yates-Johnson, the navigating officer, who had denied failing to ensure the ship's safe navigation, and Lieutenant Jonathan Lee, officer of the watch, who had denied negligently causing the accident, were both found guilty and reprimanded.

MPs act over faulty cables

The Commons Defence Committee decided yesterday to ask for a memorandum from the Ministry of Defence on the report in *The Times* that faulty cables were supplied for warships, and that the Ministry was responsible for the errors.

Defective cables had to be replaced in submarines built in the 1970s. Similar defects have caused more than a year's delay in work on the seabed operations vessel Challenger, now being recabled in the Scott Lithgow yard at Greenock.

Seven released after raid

Seven men arrested in Reading by Thames Valley and Scotland Yard detectives on Tuesday in connexion with the arms cache found at Pangbourne, Berkshire, last October were released yesterday without being charged.

The men, several of whom are understood to have Irish backgrounds, were arrested after investigations led by the Yard's anti-terrorist squad. They were held under the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

Austin Rover alters warranty

Austin Rover has changed the terms of its six-year corrosion warranty to allow regular servicing at any garage provided the vehicle is inspected annually by a franchised dealer at a nominal charge.

Austin Rover's insistence that cars must be serviced by franchised dealers for the warranty to be valid led to representations from the Office of Fair Trading.

Six feared dead as tug sinks

Six men are feared drowned after a German tug sank in storms off Land's End on Monday night. Four others were rescued yesterday after spending 36 hours in a life raft.

The rescued men were picked up by a French minesweeper after being spotted by an RAF Nimrod.

Lax officials blamed for costly delays at Dounreay

By Anthony Bevis, Political Correspondent

Lack of government control over the development of a nuclear fast reactor, which has already cost more than £1,000m and is running at least nine years behind schedule, has been strongly criticized by Sir Gordon Downey, the official comptroller and Auditor General.

A review of the fast reactor programme by the National Audit Office has revealed that the prototype at Dounreay will not reach continuous full-scale operation before next September. Work began on fast reactors in 1954.

Sir Gordon has reported to Parliament that the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority is directly to blame for some of the delay, which has "substantially" increased development costs, put at £1,019m to the end of last March.

But his main criticism is that neither the Department of Energy nor the authority had bothered to discover the financial consequences of the delay.

He says: "Moreover, the department did not establish criteria enabling it to assess whether the authority had secured the most efficient use of resources devoted to the programme."

The Department of Energy

told Sir Gordon that it had carried out "a searching examination" of the authority's financial requirements for 1982, but he reports that it failed to discover total expected costs or target completion dates for progress objectives.

"Accordingly," he says, "it appeared to me questionable whether the department's requests for voted funds could have included a soundly-based scrutiny of the programmes and the projects on which funds were to be spent."

The authority replied that "these aspects have not gone by default."

The authority has meanwhile been asked to spend a "settled" annual budget of £70m over the next nine years, on the assumption that it will not be asked to start construction of a lead commercial fast reactor until 1993, which was initially expected to be working by 1977.

But Sir Gordon is again strongly critical, saying: "An arrangement of this kind appears to be contrary to the accepted principle that development programmes should have clearly defined objectives, stages and timescales if they are to be properly controlled and economically and efficiently carried out."

Protecting humans from robots

By Craig Seton

Isaac Asimov's first law of robotics: that robots should not harm humans, is breaking down as more advanced industrial robots are introduced and Britain's Health and Safety Executive is now considering introducing guidelines for the safety of workers who maintain and programme them.

Three workers in Japan have been killed by robots since 1979, and authorities in Sweden, detected 22 accidents or near-misses involving robots and workers in a two-week period.

There appear to have been no accidents in Britain so far involving robots and humans but the executive says there is a need for safe procedures to be adopted for "proving programmes" for robots and later amendments to them.

A report by the Health and Safety Executive's general engineering industrial group, based in Birmingham, says that robots are least likely to cause an accident when in production.

About 1,500-2,000 industrial robots are in use in Britain, mostly involved in the manufacture of motor cars. Studies have shown that workers are most at risk during programming and maintenance.

The report says that teaching robots a set sequence of tasks and then replaying the sequence to check its accuracy often involves close observation. It is then that the operator may be at risk.

Growing art market role for Britain

By Haas Mallalieu

Britain's exports of fine art and antiques still outstrip imports, although the 1983 figures released by the Department of Trade show that the trade has pulled out of its recent depression.

The total figure for exports is £460.6m compared with £372m for imports, but they do not reveal the whole picture. While modern paintings are included, works of art less than 100 years old do not feature and they comprise a considerable proportion of the market.

Antiques that come to Britain to be sold and then left the country, feature in both figures. However, on this evidence American buying of antiques and paintings in Britain has risen by 74 per cent and 12 per cent to £226.5m. Despite the increasing strength of the dollar, British imports from the United States have increased by 26 per cent to £24.2m.

The most dramatic increase in the export market has been in Canada. It took £6.2m worth of antiques from Britain, an increase of 138 per cent on the 1982 figure.

One of the best ways of assessing picture market prices is in the sales of minor, decorative, Old Master paintings. Such a sale at Sotheby's yesterday produced a total of £408,639 with many leading lots trouncing their estimates. A church interior dated 1629 by Dirk van Delen, sold for £22,000 against its estimate of £3,000 to £5,000.



Vain mission: The Liverpool council leader, Mr John Hamilton (with briefcase), and Mr Terence Fields, Labour MP for Liverpool, Broadgreen (with scarf), arriving at the Department of the Environment with (front, left to right) councillors Mr Tony Hood, Mr Derek Hatton, Mr Frank Mills and Mr Tony Byrne.

Jenkin rejects Liverpool cash plea

By David Walker

Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, yesterday rejected Liverpool Labour councillors' demand that their spending target be raised by £30m and recited a £400m catalogue of special measures to assist Merseyside.

He told a city council deputation that the Government was sympathetic to Liverpool's economic and social problems and had helped the area in recent years through the Urban Programme and Manpower Services Commission.

Mr Jenkin said the Labour administration had inherited a tight budget from its Liberal

predecessors, but had since willfully increased spending. He condemned a recent council decision to pay each council tenant a £16 bonus. "Liverpool is by no means unique in facing tough political choices," he said. He had neither the power nor the intention to bend spending rules for the city.

During what the minister termed a frank discussion, Mr Derek Hatton, the deputy leader of the council, is understood to have predicted a resurgence of street riots unless more money was forthcoming. Mr Hatton, a Militant supporter, said afterwards: "He just told us to keep with the

law. He is not prepared to help us in any way."

If Liverpool Labour group sticks together, the plan is to levy a rate for 1984-85 which would not be enough to meet the planned outgoings of the council. This would be against the law. Mr Hatton has claimed that meeting government spending targets would mean dismissing more than 5,000 council staff; paying for the planned spending of £25m would require a 200 per cent rate rise.

Mr Jenkin emphasized that a small reduction in the amount by which Liverpool is exceeding government targets would bring in extra rate support

grant and so permit a lowering of rates.

In Liverpool, the leader of the Liberal group of councillors, Sir Trevor Jones, yesterday threatened to refer to the district auditor spending by the council on a publicity campaign against the Government. "These militants can print what they like, but they should dip into their own pockets," he said.

A bright note on Merseyside yesterday was a £100,000 gift by the National Westminster Bank to help to build an annex to a centre for training adults and stimulating new businesses.

Knives sharpening in Chesterfield

From Colin Hughes, Chesterfield

Mr Tony Benn's policy of troops out and a united Ireland, will be adopted by Labour within 18 months of the Chesterfield by-election, Mr Kenneth Baker, the Minister of Information Technology, claimed yesterday.

His apparent insight into the future course of Opposition policy was based on the belief that "it is Kinnock's mouth, but it is Benn's brain determining the drift of the Labour Party."

Mr Baker, who was speaking in Chesterfield, added: "I predict that within 18 months or so Mr Benn's policy on Northern Ireland will become Labour's policy." The same applied to defence and the EEC.

Mr Nicholas Bourne, the Conservative candidate, is determined to keep alive the

which Mr Bourne countered yesterday: "I do not know where he has been."

Mr Max Payne, the Alliance candidate, despite admitting that only one voter had mentioned Miss Maynard to him, was appalled. "I call them terrorists, and I would like to know what Mr Benn calls them."

Mr Benn was not calling them anything. He was more concerned about health service cutbacks, and took the touring Labour Party ambulance to the town's new general hospital.

Mr Kenneth Livingstone, the leader of the Greater London Council, made his foray into by-election hot house yesterday afternoon to find that the main campaign issue is Mr Benn.

"One thing interests me, how are the media going to explain a Benn victory after telling people for 10 years that he is as odious as Ken Livingstone?" Mr Livingstone asked.

General election results: E.C. Verheyen (Lab.) 57.5%, 9,708; L.P. 42.5%, 5,708.

Department criticized on college sale

The Scottish Education Department was criticized in a government report yesterday for taking a casual approach to the sale of Hamilton College of Education and failing to ensure that the property was marketed adequately.

Hamilton College, with 51 acres of land, was sold in 1982 for £680,000 after the district valuer had estimated the property might realize £6m.

The report by the Commons' Public Accounts Committee recommended that the Scottish Office should issue clear instructions to all departments that property sales from which the Exchequer largely benefits should maximize the selling price and incorporate all steps recommended in the report.

The Halliday Committee reported in 1980 on how purchasers of Robroyston House had made substantial profits after redevelopment.

Committee of Public Accounts, Session 1983-84, Hamilton College of Education (HMSO £5).

State industries top pay rise league

By Sarah Hogg, Economics Editor

Workers in nationalized industries have won the best pay rises over the past 20 years, according to a study by the published today by the National Institute for Economic and Social Research.

Those in manufacturing industry have also achieved above average increases, but employees in "general government" services have fallen behind, in spite of a surge in 1979-80.

The study does not compare absolute pay levels, but looks at the effect of increases since 1963. By 1983, pay in both public corporations and manufacturing industry was more than 60 per cent higher, in real terms, than in 1963, while in general government it rose by only 4 per cent.

The study concludes that pay settlements in the big public corporations have a strong influence on other sectors of the economy.

● The struggle the govern-

ment faces in trying to reduce unemployment is emphasized by official projections published yesterday showing rapid growth of the labour force over the next five years (Our Economics Correspondent writes).

The number of people in work or looking for jobs is expected to grow by 582,000 between 1983 and 1988, compared with a rise of 446,000 between 1978 and 1983, according to article in the February issue of the *Employment Department's Gazette*.

The increase reflects both the high birth rates of the 1960s and a growing proportion of women wanting to work.

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Overseas selling prices
Austria Sch 29, Belgium Fr 50, Canada
Denmark Dkr 29, Finland Fmk 50, France Fr 100, Germany DM 100, Greece Dr 100, Holland Gld 100, Ireland Ir£ 100, Italy Lit 100, Japan Yen 100, Korea Won 100, Luxembourg Lfr 100, Malaysia M\$ 100, Mexico M\$ 100, New Zealand NZ\$ 100, Norway Nkr 100, Portugal Esc 100, Singapore S\$ 100, South Africa Rand 100, Sweden Sfr 100, Switzerland Sfr 100, Taiwan NT\$ 100, Thailand Baht 100, USA \$ 100, West Germany DM 100

Search for third IRA gunfighter

From Richard Ford Belfast

Security forces in Northern Ireland were last night hunting for a third Provisional IRA gunman who escaped after an SAS operation ended in the deaths of a soldier and two terrorists.

A second soldier from the undercover team, which had apparently been watching the house of one of the men who died, was very seriously ill in hospital with leg wounds. He was airlifted from the village of Dunloy in Co Antrim soon after a fierce gun battle in which houses were hit by bullets.

An Armalite rifle, a sub-machine gun and a shotgun were found in a field near a small building development in the nationalist village. Two of the weapons were discovered by the bodies of Provisional IRA gunmen Henry Hogan, aged 21, and Declan Martin, aged 18, with the third lying some yards away indicating it had been dropped by the fleeing member of the active service unit.

The dead soldier was Sergeant Paul Oram, aged 26, who was due home in Yorkshire at the weekend to visit his wife and baby daughter.

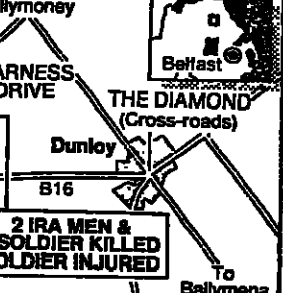
He was a member of the 9/12th Lancers, who are not serving in the Province, but he was attached to the 8th Infantry Brigade at Londonderry. Sergeant Oram is the first soldier to be killed in the Province this year.

Local people spoke of hearing a burst of gunfire and then seeing hooded men jump from two unmarked Cortina cars, shouting in English accents: "Get the hell out of the way". The men ran in a pincer movement towards the field where further shots were heard. The two terrorists were later found dead.

Although details of what opened remain sketchy it



Declan Martin: Killed in gun battle.



appears that terrorists had attempted to set up an ambush and probably fired at the soldiers before being ambushed as they tried to escape across open ground. In a statement admitting that the dead men were members, the Provisional IRA alleged that it was aware that Mr Hogan's home was under surveillance.

Drawing blocked

The Government has suspended an export licence for a Rubens drawing "A Man in Korean Costume" sold at Christie's for £327,600, until May 21 to enable a British body to match that price. The drawing is believed to have been bought by the Getty Museum in California.

Unions offer unique guarantee

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

Trade union proposals put to the Prime Minister in the hope of a compromise on union membership at the Government Communications Headquarters reveal how far the unions were prepared to go to reach an agreement and equally the suspicion with which Downing Street regarded them.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher will meet the unions this afternoon and give a response to a remarkable draft agreement drawn up by leaders of the nine Civil Service unions and amended during discussions with Sir Robert Armstrong, Secretary to the Cabinet.

The confidential draft was agreed by the unions only after a long and heated meeting last week between union officials and Sir Robert in the Cabinet Office in Downing Street. He left the unions saying he did not think there had been sufficient concessions for the Government to drop the proposed ban at GCHQ.

The paper contains proposals

for guaranteeing no disruption through industrial action which are unique in their scope in any agreement covering public service workers.

An important sticking point was the section of the draft which covered the conduct of negotiations at GCHQ which Sir Robert insisted must include the words "including structure", which the unions took to mean all important issues such as pay, leave, hours and grading.

Those issues are at the moment dealt with nationally. The unions felt that to accept Sir Robert's words was to agree to their own emasculation as a national force at GCHQ and rejected it.

Sir Robert was accompanied at the secret meetings with the unions by Mr Peter Kemp, deputy secretary at the Treasury, Mr Peter Le Cheminant, second permanent secretary at the Manpower and Personnel Office, a Foreign Office official and Mr John

Adey, principal establishment officer at GCHQ.

The team of Government advisers went through the union draft proposing amendments which they argued would be the minimum necessary for it to come anywhere near the Government's objectives of guaranteeing national security in GCHQ operations.

There was disagreement over the title of the document originally headed *Agreement on Trade Union Organisation in GCHQ*. The unions accepted Sir Robert's insistence that the words "essential intelligence areas" should be excised.

Sir Robert's argument was that GCHQ was a "seamless robe" and could not be split into areas for the purposes of union commitments on no disruption of its operations. There was also insistence that the section of the draft dealing with "safeguarding the continuity and secrecy of the intelligence services provided by the GCHQ" should include reference to the centre's security services.

The unions accepted another suggestion that they give a commitment not to instruct their members at GCHQ to take industrial action in addition to a promise not to ask them to take action. The unions pledged in the draft not to "put at risk the continuous maintenance, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, of essential security and intelligence services at GCHQ", according to the draft.

It was made clear to the unions that whatever happened, certificates issued last month by Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, removing GCHQ employees' rights of access to protection under employment legislation, could not be rescinded.

The lying lie detectors

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

Lie detector tests, which the Government wants to use for screening workers at GCHQ and to which civil service unions are opposed, are wrong on two out of three occasions according to Dr David Lykken of the department of psychiatry at the University of Minnesota.

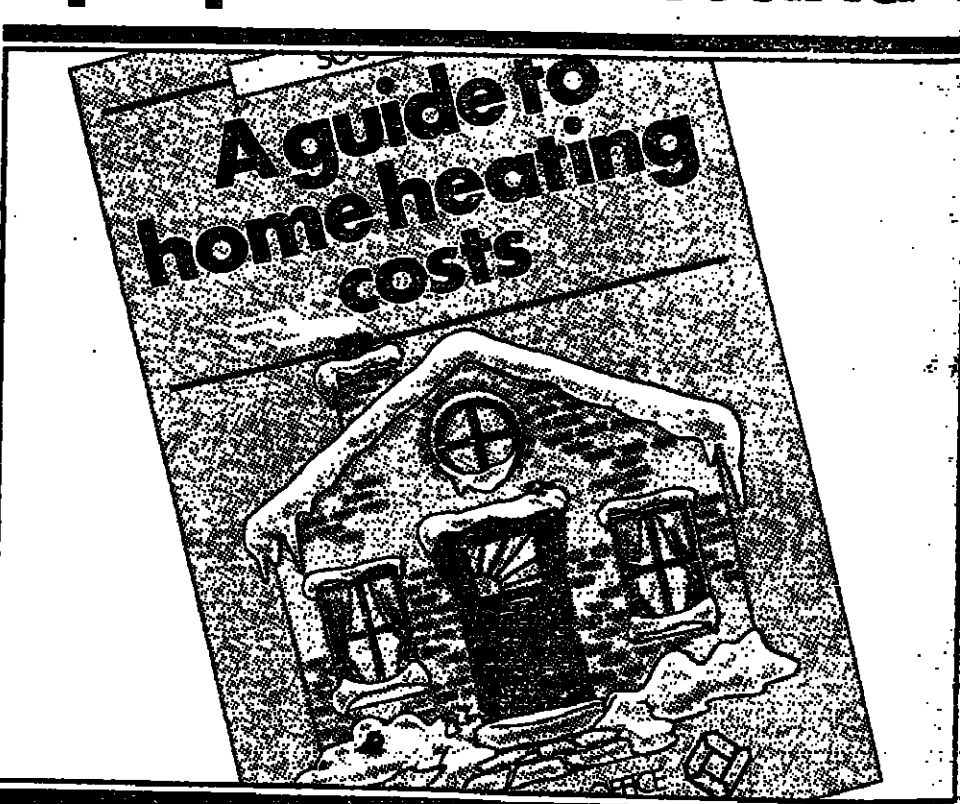
The tests are biased against innocent and conscientious individuals and can be "beaten" by sophisticated liars, he says in a review in the polygraphic interrogation in today's issue of the science magazine *Nature*.

He says the tests can only determine whether an individual seems to have been disturbed by one question more than another. It is not possible

to tell whether the question elicited guilt or fear or anger, or had anything to do with observed physical changes. He says there is no credible scientific evidence for such tests.

Of the use of such tests at GCHQ, Dr Lykken says: "Apart from the damage to the careers and reputations of innocent persons, this decision is likely to result in the loss to the Government of some of its most conscientious civil servants, replacing them with under-socialized types who easily pass polygraph tests. This decision may well open the door to easy penetration of the security services."

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Royal commission calls for more spending to combat pollution

By John Young

An immediate reversal of the decline in government spending on environmental protection is sought in the tenth report of the Royal Commission of Environmental Pollution, published yesterday.

The report, which covers a variety of subjects including water quality in estuaries, the cleanliness of beaches, emissions from motor vehicles and power stations, acid rain and straw burning, states that control of pollution is not "an optional extra. It is a fundamental component of national economic and social policy, and has many international implications."

The commission also criticizes government delays in responding to its earlier reports. Like any other advisory bodies, royal commissions must accept that not all their recommendations will be implemented, but it is reasonable for them to expect that their reports will be dealt with as expeditiously as possible, it says.

Among subjects of recent public concern, the report identifies straw burning and the discharge into the sea of radioactive wastes from the nuclear fuel processing plant at Sellafield.

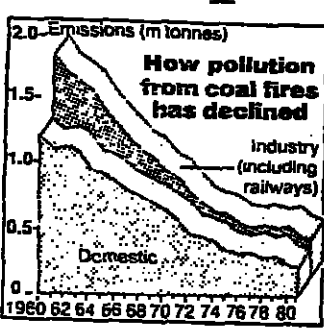
It recommends a ban on straw burning, to take effect in five years' time. The legislation should be introduced immediately to make it clear that research and investment in other methods of disposal could not be postponed.

The commission says that it would "not be appropriate" for it to offer a considered judgement on the Radioactive Waste Management Advisory Committee and the National Radiological Protection Board. But it does recommend that the committee's terms of reference should be enlarged to include people with local government experience.

The report calls for the highest priority to be given an appraisal of alternative energy sources ready for a possible progressive shift from fossil fuels.

"We respect the fears that many people continue to express about certain aspects of the nuclear power programme", it says. "But until the United Kingdom has a secure and environmentally attractive alternative, it would be wrong to discard the experience and expertise gained from several decades of nuclear power development."

"We would therefore support a modest increase in nuclear power capacity as part of a strategy for reducing depen-



Tidal river quality in England and Wales, 1970-80 (%)

Year	Unpolluted	Decent	Improvement	Poor, urgently	Grossly
1970	48.1	49.6	50.3	23.4	25.1
1980	16.8	14.8	7.9	11.7	10.5

dependence on fossil fuels as a primary energy source and for reducing the polluting effects of their combustion."

Although the report devotes several pages to acid rain, which it describes as one of the most important pollution issues at present, it makes no detailed recommendations.

Instead, it supports further international research, although it also recommends that the Board should test the effectiveness of methods of reducing sulphur dioxide emissions.

Smoke emissions from diesel vehicles are in many circumstances at an unacceptable level, the report says. The Department of Transport should institute urgently research and other forms of technology to make the quality of emissions less dependent on maintenance standards.

Greater urgency should be given to developing simpler and more objective methods for smoke measurement at testing stations and at roadside spot checks. Local authorities should be empowered to take proceedings directly.

The commission considers it essential that there should be no increase in the quality of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons and other carcinogens in exhaust emissions, and, any steps taken by the Government to introduce unleaded petrol should avoid any such increase.

The water quality of some estuaries still gives cause for concern, although the commission's worst fears have not been realized, the report says.

The Mersey is the worst remaining blackspot. It re-

ceives, untreated, the domestic sewage, trade effluent and surface water run-off from the Liverpool and Wirral conurbations. With a population of almost 1,500,000, they comprise by far the largest urban area with untreated discharges.

Many bathing waters and beaches suffer from an undesirable degree of sewage contamination, the report says. The risk of serious disease is small, but the visible presence of faecal and other offensive materials can mean a serious loss of amenity.

The Government should set a date for ending the discharge of crude sewage. It should also reconsider the criteria used for identifying bathing waters under EEC directive, with a view to increasing their number.

The report also makes a number of recommendations for making more information available to the public.

"Secrecy fuels fear", it says. "A guiding principle behind all legislative and administrative controls should be a presumption in favour of unrestricted access... with provision for secrecy only in those circumstances where a genuine case for it can be substantiated."

Tenth Report of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution, Cmd 9149, (Stationery Office, £10.75).

Leading article, page 13



Wheels away: The Chelsea Pedlars bicycle polo team v Ascot All Stars at Ham Polo Club, in Richmond, south-west London yesterday. In April, the Chelsea Pedlars will be the first British team to compete in the Indian Interstate Championships in Delhi, before going on tour to Jaipur and Bombay (Photograph: Brian Harris).

Fishing ban forced by nets loophole

By Our Agriculture Correspondent

A loophole in regulations designed to conserve Cornish mackerel stocks has forced the Government to close from March 4 the South-West "mackerel box", which was designated a conservation zone as part of last year's EEC fisheries agreement.

It extends north from Padstow to the Pembrokeshire coast; west to within a few miles

of the Irish coast; south into the Atlantic and east to south of Brixham.

The regulations restrict most fishing other than with the hand lines used by local inshore fleets. They aim to curb the Scottish purse seiners which in past winters have plundered the mackerel grounds and sold their catches to foreign factory ships.

Because mackerel are a pelagic species, swimming close to the surface, it had not

thought necessary to ban bottom trawling for white fish. But in practice it had proved impossible to ensure that nets were trawled a sufficient depth to avoid catching large numbers of mackerel.

Last week, two Danish trawler skippers were each fined £17,000 for having too large a proportion of mackerel in their catches.

It is a sign of how much the fisheries issue has been defused

that EEC ministers are expected to agree readily on March 5 to the loophole.

The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food emphasized yesterday that there was no immediate threat to stocks. This winter's mackerel catch is expected to total about 200,000 tonnes, compared with up to 500,000 tonnes in past seasons. Although the ban on factory ships was lifted at the end of December, they have been much less in evidence this year.

Compromise on dumping of nuclear waste

By Pearce Wright
Science Editor

A meeting of 42 governments which signed the London Dumping Convention is moving towards a series of compromises on the disposal of radioactive waste in the sea.

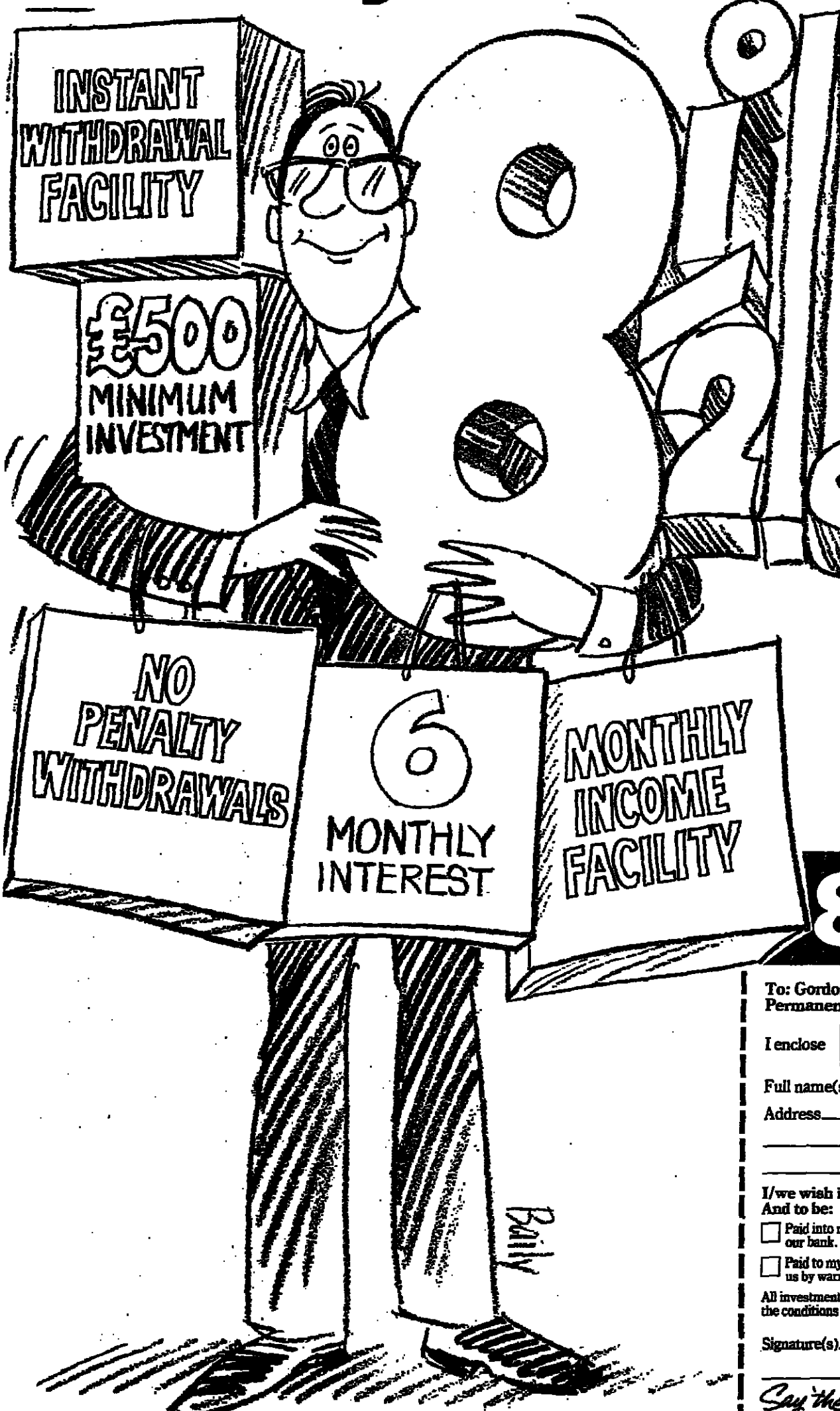
Two issues have dominated the discussion at the International Maritime Organization in London. The first is what to do when a two year moratorium, agreed last year, on disposal of low level radioactive wastes comes to an end.

Proposals to be put to the meeting will include details for a technical working group whose findings will provide the basis of a decision on whether to allow low level dumping at sea to resume or to recommend countries to adopt land storage at sites which can be monitored continuously. More than twenty countries have indicated support for land storage.

The second issue concerns the handling of long-lived high level radioactive waste which comes from the defence and nuclear power programme.

Britain, the United States, France and Germany want it to be covered by the convention but still banned and research into the feasibility of sea-bed disposal conducted. The Scandinavian and Spanish speaking countries just want the high level waste prohibited, and no research which could be a foot-in-the-door to dumping.

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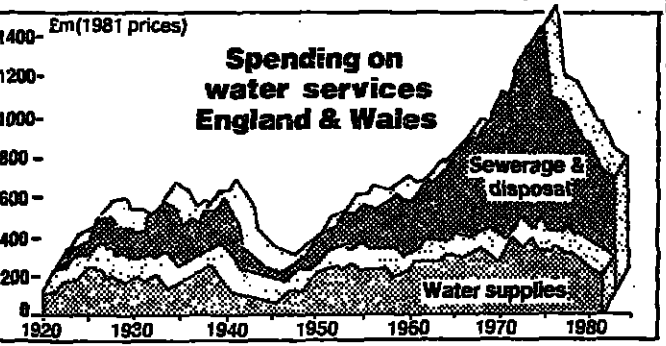
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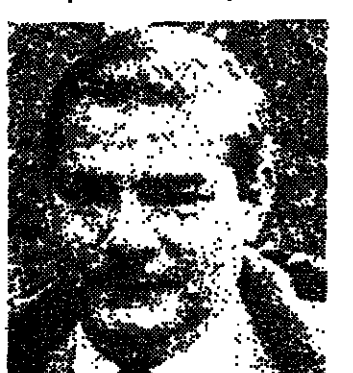
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Postmen's 'Bolshie' leader in job fight

A Post Office union leader nicknamed "Bolshie Bill" claimed at an industrial tribunal yesterday that he had been unfairly dismissed over his union activities.

Mr Bill Willoughby, aged 41 and a postman for 19 years, was



Mr Willoughby: "Threat of violence".

branch chairman of the Union of Communication Workers at the Western District sorting office in London, which was notorious for industrial unrest, the tribunal was told.

He was found guilty of a series of disciplinary offences as he "forcefully" pursued his members' interests. It was alleged. He was dismissed for allegedly organizing an unauthorized union meeting during the office's busiest time.

Mr David Griffiths-Jones, for the Post Office, told the tribunal that at one point Mr Willoughby faced five separate disciplinary charges in 18 months. One case followed an "unusually 45-minute row" over food hygiene in the staff canteen. "Willoughby was alleged to have threatened a member of the catering management with violence", Mr Griffiths-Jones said.

GP pays £4,000 for deaths of two children

A doctor has agreed to pay to pay £4,000 for the lives of two young children he failed to treat properly.

Dr Lulitkumar Nirmal, of Glen Rhyd, Coed Ewa, Cwmbran, Gwent, offered the children's parents £1,500, each plus £495 each for funeral and solicitors' costs in an out of court settlement. He did not admit liability.

Gareth Freeman died, aged 22 months, from bronchial pneumonia and a chest infection after Dr Nirmal prescribed cough medicine. Shaun Phillips, aged 2, died from gastro-enteritis after Dr Nirmal refused to send him to hospital.

A General Medical Council hearing last month decided to admonish Dr Nirmal after reading testimonials from other doctors and a petition of support from 500 patients.

Pianist faces ban over work in South Africa

Mr Malcolm Binns the pianist is likely to become the first British musician to be affected by a council blacklist on artists who have appeared in South Africa.

Mr Binns has been told by Camden that he will not be allowed to appear in the Camden Festival unless he undertakes never to accept another engagement in South Africa.

Details of his planned concert with the Camden School Orchestra have been included in the programme, which is largely paid for by the council.

London musical agents, fearful that the Greater London Council will introduce a similar blacklist.

Kohl prepares joint effort with Paris to ensure EEC summit success

From Michael Blayon, Bonn

Amid unusual secrecy Chancellor Kohl of West Germany appears to be planning a joint *démarche* with France to overcome the crisis now facing the European Community.

A flurry of meetings with European leaders by both President Mitterrand and Herr Kohl has raised speculation that the two countries are preparing a package that can be presented as a *fait accompli* to Mrs Thatcher.

For the Chancellor is determined to prevent a breakdown of next month's summit, and to show himself to his critics at home and abroad as a statesman able to transcend national bickering and give new impetus to the European ideal.

Perhaps more than any of its partners, West Germany sees its interests and identity defined by membership of the Community. If the EEC were to founder it would not only be an economic disaster for the Federal Republic, but also a political catastrophe. And as the prospects for success in Brussels look ever gloomier so German impatience is growing.

Herr Kohl told the national executive of his Christian Democratic Party (CDU) on Monday that Europe needed political unity. He said that after the elections for the European Parliament on June 17, the CDU would begin a new thrust to ensure that Europe did

not stick in its present state. The Community could not have any value if in every stormy situation one member or another hinted it would leave. All members had to be asked whether they regarded their membership as irreversible, as West Germany did. The speed of the Community's advance could not be set by the slowest ship, he added, alluding to proposals after the fiasco in Athens for a "two-speed" Europe, with West Germany and the other founding members setting the pace.

Herr Kohl is probably glad to be able to raise his sights from the political strains within his coalition and direct attention to an ideal broadly shared by everyone in the country. Almost unnoticed Europe, and especially the ties to France, have become the priority in Bonn's foreign policy.

But Bonn does not have an easy course to steer. Closer links with France depend on resolving the tricky economic problems between the two countries, in particular the cross-border tariffs on agricultural imports from France into Germany. And Bonn does not want to be drawn by Paris into supporting the French position on Britain's rebate at the expense of relations with London.

Nevertheless, for historic and political reasons, West Germany is closer to Paris than to

London on Europe - in spite of a sneaking sympathy for Britain's case and a shared desire to see agricultural spending brought under control. Herr Kohl is convinced that France and Germany must be the dynamo to get Europe moving again.

He is therefore eager to revive the close cooperation that flourished in the days of President Giscard d'Estaing and Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, but which ran into squalls when both countries changed political direction and economic policies were out of step.

An important element in this cooperation is defence. After years of virtually no interest in Paris, there has been a sudden flourishing of defence cooperation. This involves much more than armament technology and business deals and may soon include strategy deliberations by the experts. Bonn is eager to pursue this if only to try to reassure a nervous neighbour across the Rhine that West Germany is not going neutralist or weakening in its defence resolve.

Both sides' interests in coordinating their defence policies may have been sharpened by harsh hints from Washington that America was looking to Japan and the Pacific, and that Europe had better define its own interests in the Atlantic Alliance more clearly.

Galtieri faces the music



Former President Galtieri of Argentina (left) on his way to appear before the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces. The general was arrested on Tuesday on the presumption that he committed military crimes during the Falklands War. If convicted, he could be sentenced to death. (Douglas Tweedale writes from Buenos Aires).

More than 18 months after the last shot was fired, the commanders who led the country to defeat are going before a military court to be tried for their responsibility. Yesterday, the nine-member tribunal was questioning the former navy commander, Admiral Jorge Anaya. The president of the Supreme Council said it was possible that he could also be arrested after answering 15 questions the court had prepared for him.

Wild card in island election

Dismay in Grenada as Gairy steps out

From Trevor Fishlock, St George's Grenada

On a roadside rock above St George's Harbour someone has lettered, in red paint, the word *Mongoose*, and has thoughtfully added an arrow. The arrow points to a substantial pink house with a red corrugated roof. Everybody knows who lives here, and everybody knows what *Mongoose* means. The word can still cause a shiver.

The *Mongoose Gang* was a sort of Tonton Macoute, a private cadre of thugs employed by Sir Eric Gairy during his despotic rule of Grenada in the 1970s.

Sir Eric was in America when Maurice Bishop took power five years ago. Now he is back in Grenada, 62 years old, dapper in suits and ties, and the cause of some uneasiness. There are plenty of people, from the Governor-General down who are dismayed at his return.

There are to be elections by the end of the year and Sir Eric is testing the water, making occasional excursions from the pink house on the hill in the company of his bodyguard, Clarence. He has said that he will not stand for Parliament himself, but he has made it plain that if his candidates are successful he will have the reins.

As this little island, bankrupt and politically shattered, struggles to rebuild itself, Sir Eric is the wild card, with an undoubted capacity for mischief.

The American invasion has been presented, partly, as a restoration of democracy. But the truth is that even before the Bishop government Grenada experienced precious little democracy. Eric Gairy was a ruthless autocrat whose regime was propped up with the help of his *Mongoose Gang*.

There had been a time, though, when he was very popular. As a trade union leader in the 1950s he improved the conditions of thousands of workers on banana and cocoa plantations, securing land, housing and better pay for them. "Uncle Gairy" earned their gratitude and his Grenada United Labour Party (GULP), won the 1972 elections. When the island became independent ten years ago he was Prime Minister. But his autocratic style and bizarre behaviour angered people. Parliament met infrequently. He had to rise the 1976 elections to keep power.

It was not surprising that many islanders welcomed Maurice Bishop's coup as the removal of a rotten regime. They sang "freedom come, Gairy go, Gairy gone with UFO".

A handful of parties are being revived and founded. But no party can be described as organized at the moment, and the chrysalis politicians are barely known. Supporters of Maurice Bishop are trying to



Eric Gairy

salvage something from the wreckage of the New Jewel movement, but to a large extent Maurice Bishop was the party. The best-known political name in the island is Sir Eric Gairy, and GULP is the least disorganized of the parties. But would people vote for him? Soundings suggest his support would be very small - but these are early days.

Sir Eric has already held his first rally. He gave a rice and chicken lunch to several hundred elderly people bused in from the plantations. This is one of Sir Eric's traditional victory-winning devices. What support he has lies among these older people.

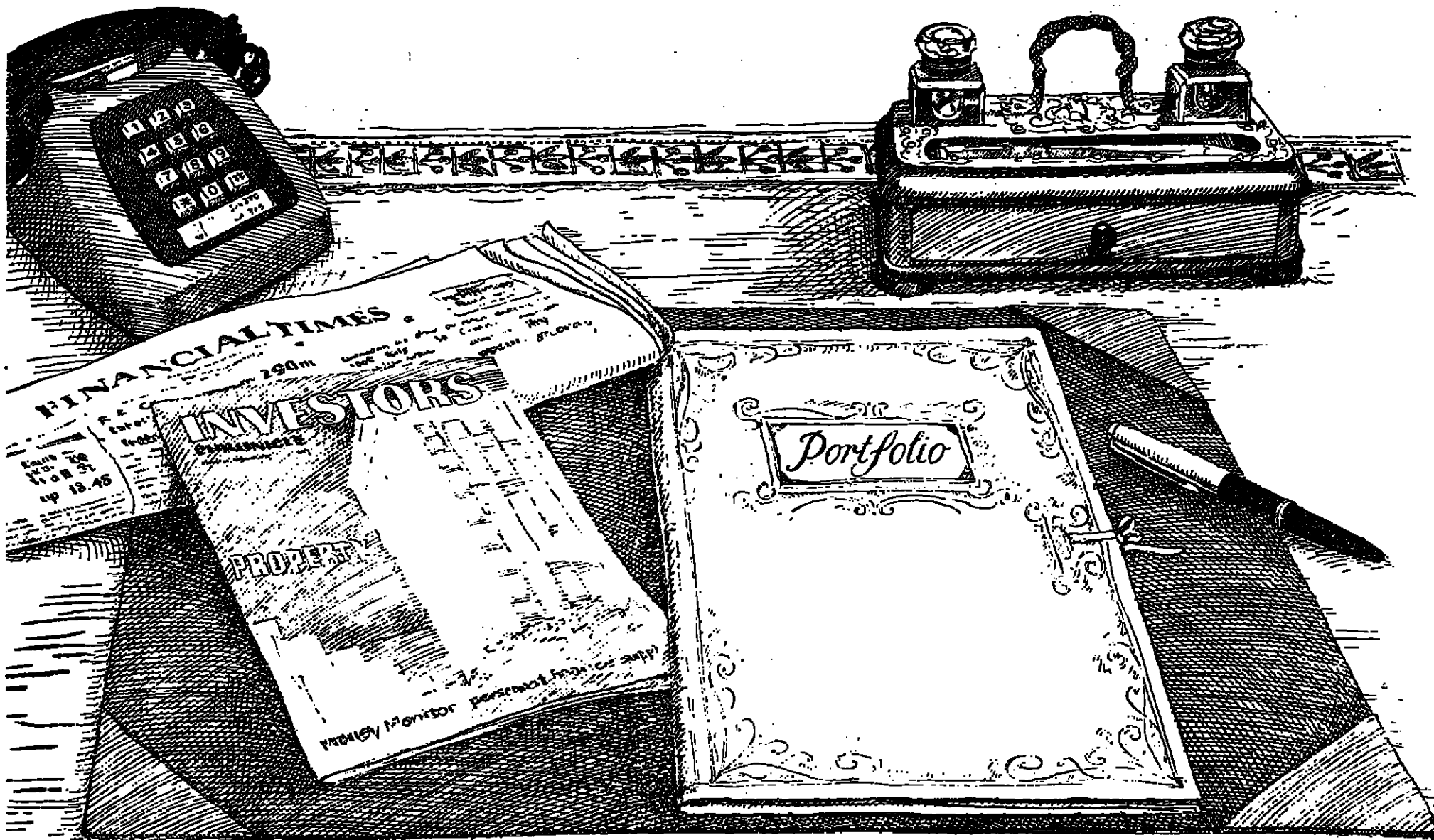
A young airline clerk said to me: "Young people won't vote for him. They know too much. But out in the country there are many who remember what he did for them and don't care about the rest."

Mr Nicholas Brathwaite, chairman of the interim government, takes a phlegmatic view. "I agree there is a long way to go in building the parties. No party other than Maurice Bishop's was allowed to operate for five years. But we should look on the election as a challenge. When the parties get into gear they will change the people's mood. It is their job to inspire."

"The election should be exciting. Whatever you think of Gairy, his presence will make things more exciting. He does not make me concerned and I haven't thought about his winning. I am not interested in the ideological complexion of the government elected by the people, provided the people have the right to change it. We should not be fearful."

Nevertheless, some people in Grenada are anxious. There is another slogan painted on a rock in St George's - "Gairy is trouble". It sums up what many people feel. But it remains to be seen whether Eric Gairy will emerge as a threat to the island he once ruled, or as just a bit player, a curiosity, in an extraordinary Caribbean drama.

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Albania protest in Athens

From Mario Modiano, Athens

Thousands of Greeks protested outside the Albanian Embassy in Athens yesterday against the alleged violation of human rights of Albania's Greek minority.

The demonstration came 24 hours after Mr Andreas Papandreu, the Greek Prime Minister, issued a warning that although Greece nursed no territorial claims against Albania it would not tolerate those violations.

It was a significant policy reversal for the Socialist Government, which has been treating Albania with diplomatic kid gloves, to the extent of ordering the police last Sunday to remove forcibly two Albanian Greeks who were staging a hunger strike outside the Albanian Embassy in Athens to press a demand that their families be allowed to join them in Greece.

The police raid provoked an outcry. The opposition deplored the action of a government that showed excessive sensitivity toward the Albanian Embassy but often encouraged demonstrations against the American embassy.

Two hunger strikers were Mr Elias Lekkas and his uncle, Mr Spyros Lekkas, who escaped to Greece 22 months ago. Mr Elias Lekkas left behind a wife and child, whose whereabouts he does not know, and his elderly father, who is serving a jail sentence until the year 2003. Mr Spyros Lekkas left behind his wife and three children.

The two men were taken to hospital, but their relatives said they were still refusing to take food for the fifteenth day and were tearing out the needles inserted in their veins to feel them.

Fugitives have claimed that Albania has 400,000 Greeks in a population of two million. They allege that about 100,000 are in exile and 25,000 are in jail for political reasons.

A report by Mr D. A. Engh, British MEP for Leeds, to the European Parliament in November, 1982, spoke of the "regime of terror" imposed on Albania's Greek minority, and urged the Greek Government to raise the matter urgently with Albania.

Opposition in Spain to EEC terms

From Our Own Correspondent, Madrid

Opposition is strengthening in Spain to the terms for entry into the EEC offered by the Council of Ministers this week.

The proposals, agreed by the ten after five years of argument, mean the prospect of another 10 years before full agricultural integration will take place.

Spain's Prime Minister, Señor Felipe Gonzalez, is demanding an integration process much more fairly balanced between the agricultural and industrial sectors.

He is preparing an alternative package to be put to Brussels in the next few weeks, protecting Spain's backward industry and also the dairy, beef and cereals sectors.

A spokesman for the employers' confederation has urged the Government not to sign the 10-year terms, and the press is swelling the dissident voices.

El Pais, the independent daily, in an editorial, urged the ten not to insist on terms "bringing Spain to its knees". Public opinion might think there were alternatives, the editorial added. The statistics, however, indicated the alternative was stagnation if Spain turned on its heel. Almost half of its exports last year went to EEC countries, compared to less than 10 per cent to Spanish-speaking Latin America.

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Shaikh's murder fuels Shia resentment over Israeli occupation

From Christopher Walker, Jibkhit, southern Lebanon

In this town of 8,000 Shia Muslims, young men were this week hanging a large colour portrait of their late religious leader, Shaikh Ragheb Harb - shot last Thursday by unknown gunmen - on the wall of the community centre under a giant picture of Ayatollah Khomeini.

Bearded and suspicious, the youths prepared, after intense whispered discussions, to talk about the latest assassinations in Southern Lebanon, where the occupying Israeli forces are facing mounting hostility from the Shia Muslim majority, most of whom are showing little inclination to join the militias which Jerusalem hopes may provide a buffer against the return of Palestinian fighters.

The growing resentment of the Shias is regarded as the most important element in the troubled situation in southern Lebanon, where Israeli troops face an average of 15 ambushes a week. Mr Yitzhak Rabin, the former Prime Minister, has been warning that if Shia terrorism should ever spill over the border into Israel, it would make Palestinian violence "look like child's play".

Shaikh Harb's cousin, a local French teacher, said: "No one has caught the killers, but everyone is convinced they were militia men who cooperate with the Israelis. They think that this will stop the resistance to them, but it will only increase it. The people here are angry, even more than they are sad."

For miles around the hillside town, black flags hang in mourning for the murdered man, who since the Israeli invasion has established himself as a formidable leader of opposition to it, and one of the most hardline of the new breed of extreme clergy. All have been

inspired by the recent victories of Muslim and Druze militias in Beirut.

Two weeks before the Shaikh, aged 32, was hit by three bullets fired from behind his garden wall, he had returned from "a spiritual journey" to Iran. He was regarded by Israeli intelligence as having inspired a number of recent attacks, including murders of south Lebanese militia leaders prepared to cooperate and join the self-styled "national guard".

Within hours of his killing, Muslim fanatics attempted to run to the neighbouring village of Haruf, bearing his blood-stained corpse on a stretcher. They were greeted by a burst of fire from pro-Israeli militiamen, who wounded four and dispersed the rest.

Sympathy strikes followed which stretched from south Lebanon to west Beirut. The funeral was attended by more than 50,000 Shias, including Mr Muhammad Ghaddar, the spokesman of the Amal militia in southern Lebanon.

In a chilling interview in his house overlooking the port city of Sidon - the great majority of whose 150,000 citizens are Muslim - Mr Ghaddar spoke at length about how new recruits to Amal were being trained as fighting men prepared to die for the Islamic cause. "We do not take anyone. We have plenty of places in Lebanon to test whether they really are prepared to die or not."

The American-educated militia leader spoke passionately of the need for a complete Israeli withdrawal. He described the way ordinary Shia Muslims (85 per cent of the 700,000 people under Israeli control) have been alienated in the 20 months since they first welcomed the Israelis for driving out the PLO,

which has used gun rule to dominate the south.

"Look," he said, pointing to the orange groves below, "they have been bulldozing our orchards for 50 yards on either side of the road because they think that will stop the attacks against them. They have also knocked down miles of the concrete walls which protected our crops from the sea winds."

Mr Ghaddar accused Israel of destroying the economy of southern Lebanon and refusing to accept assurances from the Shia community that its own militiamen were capable of preventing any PLO return after an Israeli withdrawal.

"We would be keeping them out for our own purposes, not theirs," Mr Ghaddar said. Israeli officers admit that since the recent fighting in Beirut, Amal is on what one described as the upswing in southern Lebanon.

The Shamir Cabinet is faced with the dilemma that only withdrawal is likely to defuse the resentment against the occupying army.

United Nations officials share the belief that Amal would fight to prevent a PLO return if the Israelis left. But they warn that if the bitterness - fostered by the fanatical Islamic clergy - was to increase, the south Lebanese might be prepared to turn a blind eye to future PLO attacks on Israeli targets.

"When religious leaders like the late Shaikh Harb walk in south Lebanon today, the earth trembles under their feet," one UN source said. "They have filled a leadership vacuum north of the Litani River and are now a power the Israelis have to reckon with. When people take violent action here, it is often for religious, rather than patriotic, motives."



Spirit of '84

Iran threatens Basra road

By Rodney Cowton, Defence Correspondent

Iran yesterday launched its expected large-scale attack against Iraqi positions, and claimed to have advanced within artillery range of the main road from Baghdad to Basra.

There had been repeated reports of Iran massing forces

on the southern front for the past week. In the West, last week's clashes immediately south of Meharan had been seen as a preliminary feint, with the main attack expected further south.

Reports based on Iranian

and Iraqi sources confirm that this is what has happened, with the main thrust of the Iranian attack apparently made in the direction of the village of Ali al Gharbi. This lies roughly midway between Baghdad and Basra, where the road runs close to the border.

Air sweeps planned if Strait is mined

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

The Middle East Force of the United States Navy is sailing the Gulf as the West awaits an expected spring offensive by Iran against Iraq. The White House said President Reagan was committed to "do what is necessary" to keep open the strategic Strait of Hormuz at the mouth of the Gulf.

In addition, the rhetoric the Administration is not nearly so worried about the Iranian threat to the Gulf as it was a year ago but as a precaution it is keeping 30 naval ships in the Indian Ocean. They are matched by 26 vessels from the Soviet Union.

In addition, a carrier battle group of between five and eight ships led by the Midway recently moved to the northern Arabian Sea within speedy reach of the Strait of Hormuz. In the Gulf itself the Middle East force comprises four or five ships - frigates and destroyers - headed by the USS Laffey, a specially converted command ship. The commander is Rear Admiral John Addams. The Pentagon insisted yesterday that the various movements represent "no significant change" from normal.

The Americans have contingency plans for moving in Super Stallion helicopters (the CH-53E) for minesweeping if the Iranians carry out an offensive made threat to mine the Strait of Hormuz. The helicopters drag a sled across the water's surface - more thorough and faster than using minesweeper vessels.

Iran has also threatened to try to block shipping lanes by sinking large tankers at strategic points but with such deep and wide waters the operation would be difficult, if not impossible.

The border fighting between Iran and Iraq is regarded by senior US Administration officials as preliminary action before Iran sends tens of thousands of Revolutionary Guards into another seemingly hopeless offensive against Iraqi forces in the spring. If previous strategies are adhered to, the lives of many thousands of

Guards will be expended before the Iranians deploy the armed forces.

The skirmishes are taking place in the middle sector of the border, where the land is flat. American observers are mystified: an assault across mountainous border areas would seem to make more sense because the Iranians have only small fighting machinery.

US Government officials believe that the expected 1984 offensive by Iran may be a last serious attempt to break into Iraq - "The last unobstructed window of opportunity," as one official put it.

The reason centres on the construction of a crude-oil pipeline to Saudi Arabia, which would increase Iraq's export capability and rescue its faltering economy - thus enhancing its defensive capability.

At present Iraq exports only a fraction of the 3.4 million barrels a day it exported before the war. It uses a pipeline through Turkey.

Construction of the pipeline to Saudi Arabia has not started. When it does, according to American estimates, it will take 12 to 18 months to complete. No official American money will be involved, but the administration is soothing the way for private American oil company investment. There would be credit guarantees. "Our strategy is to prevent an Iraqi collapse," a senior official said.

The US does not believe there is a serious danger of a military coup against President Saddam Husain but he could be vulnerable if economic restraints caused shortages of basic items, or if the war took a bad turn. "We are not in love with the Iraqis," an administration source said. "We find them less hateful than the Iranians."

Total casualties since the war began more than three years ago are estimated at 200,000 on the Iranian side and 50,000 for the Iraqis.

Shultz defends his Lebanon pact

From Our Own Correspondent, Washington

Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, is maintaining a vigorous defence of the May 17 Israeli-Lebanon agreement for the withdrawal of foreign troops from Lebanon. "I am proud of it," he told a Senate committee on Tuesday night.

Mr Shultz negotiated the agreement, which Syria wants abrogated. He said that the pact was basically a good document. "People say that agreement is a great stumbling block to peace in the Middle East," he said. "Open your newspapers every day and I am attacked as if there is something wrong with me for supporting that agreement. What is wrong with reasonable security and total withdrawal for Israel, and the

prospect of a reasonable relationship with another country?"

Mr Shultz said the United States had told Arab governments that wanted Israel to withdraw from Lebanon: "Where is the key, you just have to put it in the lock named Syria and get them to withdraw and you will have accomplished your purpose."

He added that the Israeli decision to move some of their forces out of Lebanon last September set back the American efforts to press Syria to match the Israelis and agree to withdraw. The Americans wanted to see a unified, stable and sovereign Lebanon.

Sikhs kill 8 more Hindus in Punjab

Delhi (Reuters) - Violence between Hindus and Sikhs in Punjab state escalated as eight people were shot and killed by unidentified attackers in the Sikh holy city of Amritsar and villages near by, the Press Trust of India reported.

It did not identify the victims or the attackers, but informed sources said the dead belonged to the Hindu community and their killers were Sikh extremists.

Seventeen people have been killed in random extremist attacks in the past two days.

Russia expels US tourists

Moscow (AFP) - Two American tourists, Meyer Schwieger and Michael Strick, were expelled from the Soviet Union for "attempting to indulge in activities of a pro-Zionist nature". Tass said. Both 34-year-old New Yorkers, they were put on the Leningrad-Helsinki train.

Jobless record

Brussels (Reuters) - The number out of work in the European Community at the end of January was 12,800,000 a record 11.5 per cent, but there were signs that unemployment was levelling out, the community statistics office said. The total was 400,000 more than at the end of December.

Cars economy

Colombo - Twenty Sri Lankan ministers who had ordered new Mercedes Benz cars and three other ministers who had bought Volvos have been asked by President Jayewardene to cancel their orders in line with the Government's austerity drive. The 23 cars valued at £315,000 before duty, will be sold to the public.

French Killed

Khartoum (AFP) - Twelve employees of a French consortium working on the Jonglei canal project in southern Sudan were killed when the lorry they were in ran over a mine on February 6, the Sudanese authorities confirmed. The mine had been planted by rebels.

Pullout check

Johannesburg - A small advance group of American technical personnel arrived in Windhoek, capital of Namibia to open an office which will help monitor the disengagement of South African forces from southern Angola.

Swiss miss

Zurich (AP) - Swissair has decided to begin training women pilots, saying "times have changed". But men on the long waiting list will get first priority. It is one of the last major airlines to allow women pilots.



London visitors: President Pertini at the Foreign Office yesterday with Mrs Thatcher. Behind is Sir Geoffrey Howe.

Pertini and Thatcher discuss EEC summit

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

President Sandro Pertini of Italy and Mrs Thatcher discussed next month's Brussels summit yesterday, soon after his arrival for a three-day official visit to Britain.

They also covered the Middle East and the urgent need for an East-West dialogue - a subject on which he feels strongly - over lunch at Number 10.

The president, who was writing foot on British soil for the first time, at the age of 87, must no doubt also have recalled the Second World War, given the presence at lunch of Major Brian Ashford Russell, an old friend and comrade in the Italian resistance. It was said to have been Major Russell who helped the

future president, a steadfast opponent of Mussolini, to make his way across Italy to join resistance fighters in Milan. A Downing Street spokesman said the atmosphere over lunch was "very friendly" and referred to the President as "an extremely welcome and popular guest".

Later, President Pertini went to the Tate and the Italian Institute, where he opened an exhibition of paintings and met members of the Italian community in London.

Today he will lunch with the Queen at Buckingham Palace, visit The Times and go, with the Queen, to the "Genius of Venice" Exhibition at the Royal Academy.

Hope of chemical ban

By Our Diplomatic Correspondent

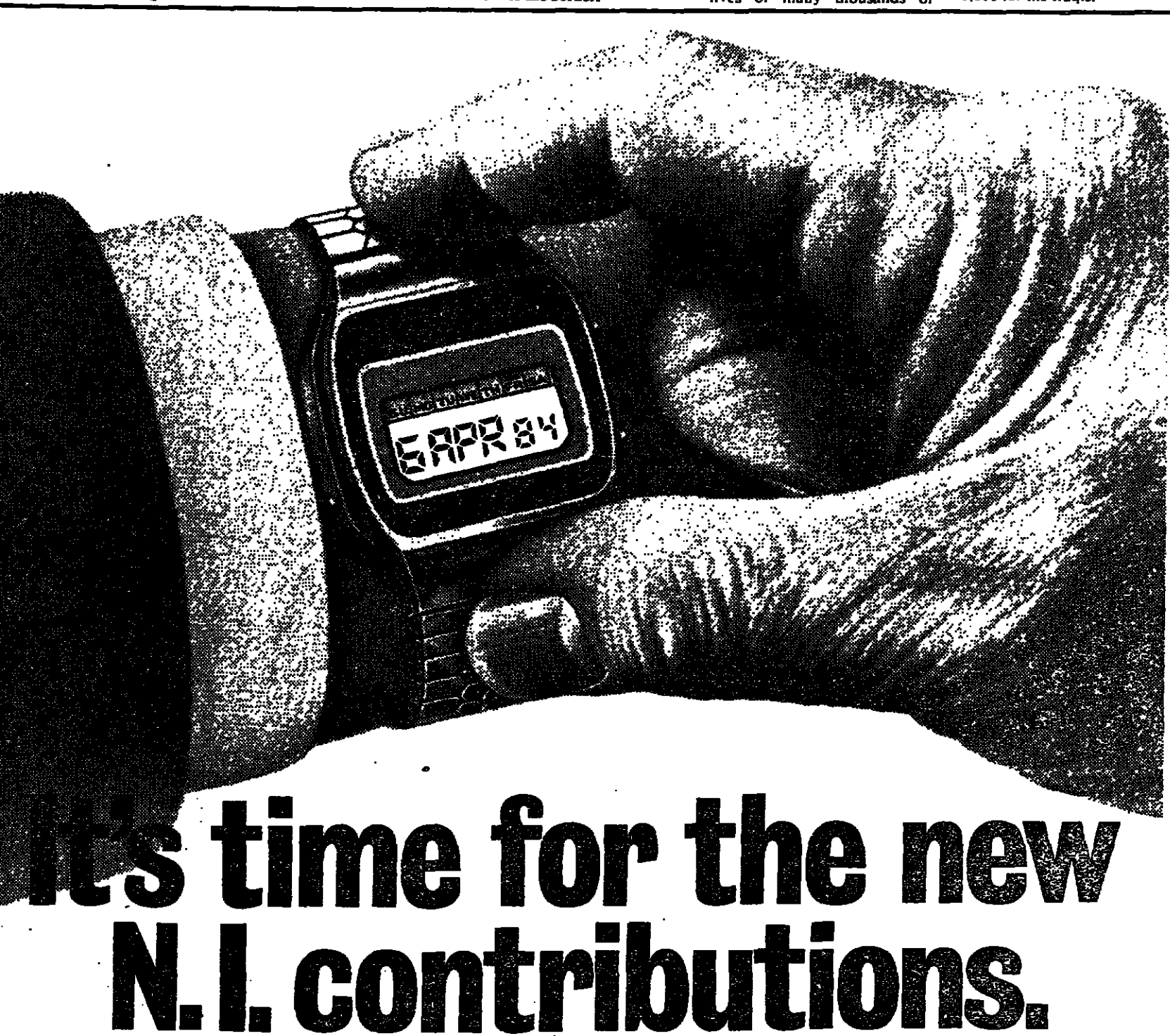
The Soviet Union, after apparently turning down a British initiative in the negotiations on banning chemical weapons, now says the two sides are not far apart.

It has emerged that the Russians are in favour of some kind of routine on-site inspection to verify compliance with any treaty agreed at the talks in Geneva.

Moreover, Mr Viktor Isra-

lyan, the chief Russian delegate, who seemed at first to be opposing the British proposal for a system of inspection by "challenge" - in case one country was dissatisfied with another's assurances - seems now to agree with the principle and to be quibbling only over details.

A statement from Whitehall welcomed the new Soviet position



Class 1 contributions for employers and employees
There will be no change in the percentage rates of contribution from 6 April. However, the lower and upper earnings limits are going up to £34 and £250 a week respectively.

Employers will pay 11.45% on earnings up to £250 for employees who are not contracted-out. For contracted-out employees they will pay 11.45% on earnings up to £34 and 7.35% between £34 and £250. These rates are inclusive of the 1% NI surcharge.

Employees who are not contracted-out will pay 9% on earnings up to £250. If contracted-out they will pay 9% on earnings up to £34 and 6.85% between £34 and £250. The reduced rate contribution payable by some married women and widows will stay at 3.85%.

New contribution tables are being sent to employers. If you haven't received them by 20 March contact:

- Your local social security office - for not contracted-out tables (CF391).
 - Contracted-out Employments Group, DHSS, Newcastle-upon-Tyne NE98 1YX - for contracted-out tables (CF392).
 - Collector of Taxes - for NI Surcharge-exempt tables (CF398).
- Do not use the present tables for payment of earnings after 5 April.

Contributions for the self-employed

Class 2 flat rate contributions go up to £4.60 a week from 9 April. If you expect to earn less than £1,850 from self-employment in tax year 1984/85, you can ask for exemption from liability.

Class 4 contribution rate will stay at 6.3%. The new lower and

upper limits on profits or gains will be £3,950 and £13,000 a year respectively.

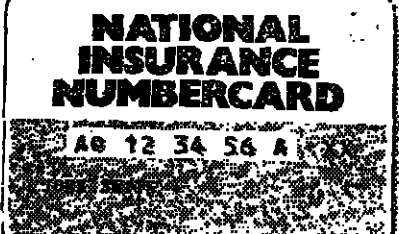
Voluntary contributions

Class 3 flat rate contributions go up to £1.50 a week from 9 April.

Full details of contribution changes
See leaflet NI.208 April 84, available from post offices and social security offices.

Statutory Sick Pay (SSP)		
Rates from 6 April 1984	Average Weekly earnings	Weekly rate of SSP
	£68 or more	£42.25 (standard)
	£50.50-£67.99	£35.45 (middle)
	£34-£50.49	£28.55 (lower)
	Less than £34	Nil - employee is excluded from SSP

For further information see leaflet NI227: Employers' guide to Statutory Sick Pay, and also the SSP information at the back of the 1984/5 contribution tables. Please note that new-style plastic Numbercards are now being issued to school leavers and others to facilitate use of the National Insurance Number by both employers and employees.



White student leader tells Pretoria court of torture by security police

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

A young white former student leader has given details of alleged torture at the hands of the security police, in hearings before the Pretoria Supreme Court, where he is suing 10 policemen for damages totalling 113,000 rands (£64,570).

Mr Auret Van Heerden, a former president of the National Union of South African Students, was held without trial in prisons in Johannesburg, Pretoria and Benoni from September 24, 1981 to July 9, 1982.

The events he described allegedly occurred on November 18, 1981. The day before, he had been warned by one of the policemen he is suing that the police had killed Steve Biko and had not been punished, and would not be afraid to kill a "small fish" like him.

Biko, the black consciousness leader, died from injuries received in security police custody in 1977. Mr Sydney Kenridge, who represented the Biko family at the inquest, is also representing Mr Van Heerden.

Mr Van Heerden told the court he was taken to a fourth-floor room in the security police offices, where he was interrogated from 8am to 6.30pm, with his right wrist handcuffed to his left ankle.

The police said they were not going to ask any questions and

expected him to volunteer information. Major P. F. Olivier struck him several times on the head to make him "think". He felt pains in his chest and could not breathe properly. He was given nothing to eat or drink.

After office workers in the building had gone home, the handcuffs were taken off a canvas bag was put over his head and water poured over it. Mr Van Heerden said. Electric shocks were administered to the base of his neck.

"I screamed and I could not inhale. I started to flounder around the floor, gasping for a while while the shocks went on." The bag was pulled on and off, his body went into convulsions and he prayed he would pass out. The policemen stamped on his fingers when he tried to remove the bag.

After the shocks, which went on for about an hour and a half, Warrant Officer Lawrence Prince and Major Olivier held him in a sitting position while Major J. N. Visser thumped him on the head and wrapped a bath towel round his neck almost strangling him.

During these assaults Mr Van Heerden was repeatedly asked to say who had recruited him to the banned South African National Congress and what methods he used to communicate with the organization.

(Membership of the ANC is a treasonable offence.) At one point, he alleged, he was grabbed by the hair and beard and knelt in the face by Warrant Officer Prince. His testicles were squeezed and the soles of his feet were beaten with sjamboks.

The assaults continued until 10pm, when he was taken to the lavatory by Major Olivier. He took off his shirt, showing his back covered with bruises. This apparently upset Major Olivier. "He had tears in his eyes, which surprised me. He said I should cooperate and gave me tips on how to answer the other policemen."

Mr Van Heerden said he then decided to make a statement, because he feared that, if subjected to a second bout of torture, he would "die or suffer permanent injuries". He still had nightmares about his imprisonment and was undergoing psychotherapy.

He feared assassination. His house had been attacked several times by unknown people, as had his brother's house. His car windscreen had been shattered.

Several of the policemen he is suing were involved in the interrogation of Neil Aggett, the white trade unionist found hanged in his security police cell in February 1982.



Golden moment: The Mahre family of Scottsdale, Arizona (Phil, Holly and 17-month-old Lindsey) admiring their latest arrival, Alexander, who was born at almost the same time as Phil was winning the Olympics slalom Gold Medal in Sarajevo.

South Africa prays for rain

From Our Own Correspondent, Johannesburg

Prayers for rain were said throughout South Africa yesterday after a request from the Prime Minister, Mr P. W. Botha, that Wednesday should be set aside as a day of atonement and intercession.

Racecourses were closed, and government offices, businesses, restaurants and shops gave time off to employees to attend

special church services, to which it is hoped the Almighty will respond by breaking the drought.

The summer rains began promisingly in November and December, bringing relief after last year's drought, which was one of the worst this century. But the rain has stopped, leaving most dams much less

than half full and spelling disaster for this year's maize crop.

The chairman of the Maize Board, Mr Crawford van Abo, said yesterday that, for the first time in South Africa's history, imports would this year exceed local production. This could entail an import cost of up to 1,000m rand (£570m).

When underdogs fell out

Prophets without honour at home

In the last four articles on the decline of Eurocommunism, Edward Mortimer and Mario Modiano explain the obstacles to its development in Greece.

In the brief and shadowy history of Eurocommunism, Greece occupies a special place — not because Eurocommunism was especially successful there but because, well before the term was coined, Greece had produced a separate Communist party which perfectly fitted the description.

This arose from the special circumstances of the struggle against the colonels' dictatorship, which coincided with the first stirrings of what later became Eurocommunism in Western Europe — notably the reaction of Western communist parties to the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968.

The "internal" leadership of the Greek Communist party (KKE) — that is those directing the struggle inside Greece, including at that time the composer Mikis Theodorakis — came out against the Soviet invasion and in support of their Czech comrades, led by Alexander Dubcek. But this position was repudiated by the official leadership of the party in exile, which was based in Bulgaria and heavily dependent on Soviet support.

This issue combined with the usual tensions that arise between those living under occupation or dictatorship and those who try to give them orders from abroad, resulted in a split. The Eurocommunist wing of the party became known as the KKE-Interior.

One might have thought the group based inside the country would have greater popular support, but when the junta fell in 1974 and both communist parties were legalized it was the old official leadership, returning from exile, that established itself as the "real" KKE in most people's eyes. For after all, where if not in Moscow can certificates of authentic communism be issued?

The KKE-Interior, like other Eurocommunist parties later on, had difficulty in defining its identity and distinguishing itself from other left-wing groups. In fact, until 1981 it chose to fight elections as part of a broader front and in that year, campaigning for the first time under its own colours, it polled a mere 1.69 per cent (compared to the official KKE's 10.92 per cent) — not enough for a single seat in Parliament.

It did rather better, however,

EUROCOMMUNISM Part 4 GREECE

In the elections held simultaneously for the European Parliament, winning 5.15 per cent (compared to the KKE's 12.68) and one seat. This was no doubt because, unlike other left-wing parties including Mr Andreas Papandreu's Pasok, it unequivocally supported Greek membership of the EEC.

Accordingly, the party now is preparing actively for next June's European elections, hoping again to do better than in a national poll and headed by the charismatic personality of its single MEP, Leonidas Kyriakos — an orator so fascinating and convincing that he has one supporter even among Greek conservatives.

One reason adduced by analysts for the limited appeal of Eurocommunism in Greece is the intensity of the passions stirred by the civil war of 1944-49, which led to a polarization with little room for nuances. For the average Greek communist, who was the political underground for 30 years after 1944, the world was black and white, divided between the United States and the Soviet Union. They feel they cannot afford not to side with Mother Russia.

That feeling, needless to say, has been assiduously cultivated by the official KKE leadership and by its Soviet backers, who treat the breakaway party as worse than fascist. President Andropov's recent death gave the Greek Eurocommunists their first opportunity in years to contact the Soviet Embassy in Athens which had systematically ignored them. The party signed the embassy's condolences book but sent no one to the Moscow funeral.

But more important, probably, is that the potential Eurocommunist electorate is preempted by Pasok, with its left-wing, anti-American brand of socialist rhetoric. Between Pasok and the official KKE there is not much space. Hence the Eurocommunists have little mass support, except among students, who often team up with anarchists and various non-aligned groups.

Concluded

Unions back Duarte in Salvadorean election

From John Carlin
San Salvador

Almost the entire Salvadorean labour movement has opted "openly and decisively" to support the Christian Democratic (PDC) candidate, Señor José Duarte, in the presidential election due on March 25.

Señor Duarte and other PDC leaders have signed a pact with the chiefs of the union umbrella organization, the Popular Democratic Union (UPD), in which both sides agree to join forces in the political battle "for better living conditions, for peace and for an end to the Salvadorean crisis".

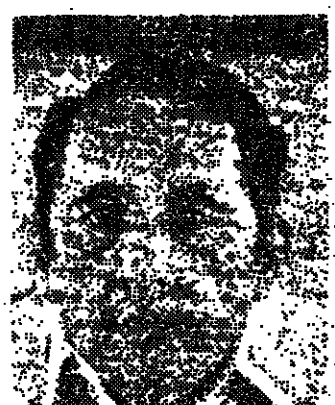
The UPD, which is the near Salvadorean equivalent to the TUC, has 500,000 members, 20 per cent of El Salvador's voting population.

In the document, not yet officially released but disclosed to *The Times* yesterday, the Christian Democrats agree, should they win the election, to give union members key posts in government economic areas.

In exchange, the UPD has promised to provide support, in both personnel and money, for the PDC electoral campaign. There is a big UPD demonstration, for example, scheduled for two weeks before the election.

The UPD has also said it will collaborate in supervising ballot boxes on election day, a not irrelevant function in a country where electoral fraud has been something of an institution in the past.

The Christian Democrats, a social democratic party by European standards, is considered "communist" by its main election rivals, the Nationalist Republican Alliance party (ARENA).



Señor Duarte: Deal on government posts

The labour organizations' comprehensive backing of the PDC will no doubt shake ARENA's presidential candidate, Major Roberto D'Aubuisson. But the right too, appears to be boosting its forces at the moment.

Diplomats have added to recent speculation in political circles that two of the six parties in the election may form a coalition with ARENA in exchange for a guarantee of cabinet positions for their presidential candidates in a future government.

The two parties, the right-wing Salvadorean Popular Party and the Salvadorean Independent Party, are too small to stand any chance of winning the election on their own but their support for ARENA in what promised to be a very close race, could prove decisive on election day.

The consensus here is that an ARENA victory will be followed by fierce repression of the organized labour movement.

Nicaragua poll advanced for fear of US attack

From Alan Tomlinson, Managua

The announcement by the Sandinista Government that the November 4 election means that Nicaragua should be able to install an elected government two days before President Reagan begins a second term of office if he wins the US election.

A president, vice-president and a constituent assembly of 90 deputies are to be installed in Managua on January 10.

Western diplomats here expressed little surprise that the Sandanistas had brought the elections forward some six months from the date most observers had expected.

They said there was genuine concern among the nine *comandantes* who have governed the country since the revolution in 1979 that the danger of American intervention would be far more real during a second Reagan term.

There was greater surprise at the announcement that the voting age is to be 16 years, and not 18 as announced by the *comandantes* in January.

In a country where more than 60 per cent of the population is under 21 and most young people support the Sandinistas, the enfranchisement of 230,000 more teenagers is sure to increase the bitterness of opposition parties.

They have accused the Sandinistas of ignoring their own electoral proposals and stage managing the process to ensure their own victory. Señor Luis Rivas, president of the Democratic Coordination Committee, the organization's umbrella organization, said: "The elections are being fashioned to keep the Sandinistas in power indefinitely".



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The Territorials

Peking hint of summer agreement as talks on Hongkong resume

From David Bonavia, Peking

The ninth round of talks between Britain and China over the future of Hongkong got under way here yesterday with the Chinese side apparently optimistic about reaching a general agreement by the middle of the year.

Sir Richard Evans, the new British Ambassador, would not comment on the substance of the talks. Sir Edward Youde, the Governor of Hongkong, attended as usual.

A Chinese official said the talks were progressing smoothly, and it was hoped that agreement would be reached by July. China has previously said that it will announce its own solution if there is no agreement by September.

The Chinese negotiating team is headed by Mr Zhou Nan, a senior Foreign Ministry official. Mr Ji Pengfei, the former Foreign Minister who is in overall charge of the nego-

tations on the Chinese side, said recently that he thought "substantial progress" could be reached during this round of negotiations.

In addition, the Chinese media have been regularly praising Hongkong's economic strength and prospects. Mr Deng Xiaoping, the elder statesman, has visited the border town of Shenzhen, which has numerous business links with Hongkong, and looked across the river into the British-administered New Territories, the lease on which expires in 1997.

The Chinese Government is showing considerable satisfaction with the progress of Shenzhen and other "special economic zones" set up adjacent to Hongkong and Macao to attract capital from those territories and from overseas.

The idea evidently is to work on the "ink-blot" principle,

with Hongkong exporting its technical, managerial and commercial expertise to Shenzhen, as well as providing capital for joint ventures and processing agreements.

Observers see this as helping to guarantee Peking's promises that Hongkong will retain its present commercial, legal and social system for 50 years after formal surrender of sovereignty by Britain in 1997.

Chinese government organs in Hongkong, such as the Bank of China and the New China news agency have been taking a high profile lately, entertaining local businessmen to cocktail parties and hosting a banquet for the Governor.

It seems that Peking is anxious not to repeat the mistakes of last September, when friction over Britain's proposals for continued administration of Hongkong were met with indignant denials.

Brunei ban on Crown Agents may be lifted

From David Watts

Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei
The Crown Agents have taken another slap in the face from Brunei. After the removal of about 23 million invested with the agents last year, Brunei has now banned them from bidding for government contracts.

It is understood that the ban has been in effect since last October and will last for six months. The agents have appealed to the Government against the decision of the Brunei Tender Board. A representative of the agents recently flew here from Singapore to intercede. Brunei has given no reason for the ban, but it is believed to be under review.

It all seems to stem from yet another misunderstanding between the two governments at a time when it appeared that relations were finally on an even keel after the acrimonious negotiations on the continued presence of the Gurkhas was reached last September.

"It is a question of a decision taken on two facts," according to an informed Brunei source. "If 20 facts had been considered, the decision might have been different."

Hopes are high that the ban will be lifted soon amid the aura of goodwill created by Prince Charles at the independence celebrations, which begin tomorrow. Prince Charles arrived yesterday afternoon, looking tired after the long flight from London. He was driven to the Central Padang for a formal welcome from the Sultan, Sir Muda Hassanal Bolkiah, and a review of troops.



Royal handshake: A Brunei nobleman greeting the Prince of Wales yesterday.

Zia hopes to hold elections in October

From Hasan Akhtar Islamabad

President Zia ul-Haq of Pakistan said here yesterday that he hoped elections would be held by the end of the year.

He was speaking at Islamabad airport before leaving for Brunei to attend independence celebrations. General Zia told a German journalist on Tuesday that he would arrange the National Assembly poll in October before Provincial Assembly elections. The politicians would also prefer it that way.

The President said the transfer of power to an elected government would be completed by March 1985, according to the German journalist.

General Zia yesterday said he had not yet taken a final decision on the nature of parliamentary elections. He has several options. But the important question is whether to allow the political parties to participate, or hold what he described as Islamic elections, without the parties.

He made clear that he would ensure that only those who came up to his standard of integrity and character would be permitted to compete. Associates of the former Prime Minister, Zulfikar Ali, would, by and large, be kept out of the elections.

General Zia said that the ban on student organizations and unions would continue.

US in 'cordial' talks with Vietnam

From Neil Kelly, Bangkok

Senior American and Vietnamese officials have completed in Hanoi what appear to have been the most cordial and fruitful meetings the two nations have had since the end of the war in Vietnam nine years ago.

Mr Richard Armitage, Deputy Secretary of Defense, said on his return to Bangkok yesterday that the talks with Mr Nguyen Co Thach, Vietnam's Foreign Minister, were exclusively about the 2,490 American servicemen still unaccounted for in the war.

Vietnam agreed to resume regular meetings between American and Vietnamese technical experts which ended last year after comments by the US Government which Vietnam found objectionable.

Final appeal fails in dingo case

From Tony Duboudin Melbourne

Mrs Lindy Chamberlain's last avenue of appeal against her conviction for the murder of her baby daughter, Azaria, at an Ayers Rock camping site in 1980 was closed yesterday when the High Court in Canberra failed to overturn her conviction.

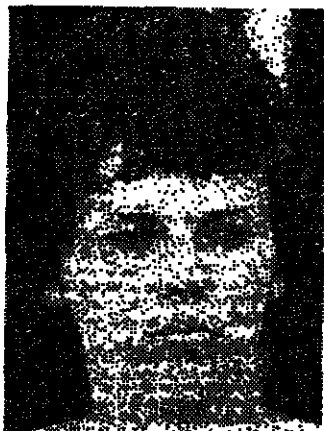
The court ruled by a majority of 3-2 that guilty verdicts should stand against Mrs Chamberlain and her husband Michael who was convicted of being an accessory after the fact.

Throughout the case the Chamberlains have protested their innocence, and said that their baby was taken from the family tent by a dingo. Mrs Chamberlain, who will be 36 next month, will continue serving her life sentence in Darwin's Berrimah jail, where she has been since last May, when bail was refused by the High Court.

The Chief Justice, Sir Harry Gibbs, Mr Justice Mason and Mr Justice Brennan rejected the Chamberlains' appeal. Mr Justice Murphy said that the guilty verdict should be set aside and both the Chamberlains acquitted. Mr Justice Deane also said that the guilty verdict should be quashed.

The majority decision was reached after more than two months' consideration and was contained in a 53-page joint judgment written by Sir Harry Gibbs and Mr Justice Mason.

"I would like to affirm that Lindy and I are innocent people," he said. "We will continue to fight to clear our name and the name of our



Mrs Chamberlain: 'Only available hypothesis'

family. This case is not over yet."

The judgement said that it had been established beyond reasonable doubt that, apart from her elder children, Mrs Chamberlain was the only person who had had an opportunity to kill Azaria.

The possibility that a child killed the baby having been rejected, only two possible explanations of the facts remained open—either a dingo took Azaria or Mrs Chamberlain killed her.

"Therefore, if the jury were satisfied beyond reasonable doubt that a dingo did not take the baby, they were entitled to accept the only other available: that Mrs Chamberlain was guilty of murder."

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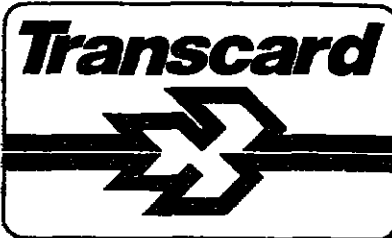
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TWN

SPECTRUM

At the feet of the master

It is quiet in the rehearsal room. Light comes across the roofs of Covent Garden. The corps de ballet loll on the floor against two walls. In one corner there is a grand piano with a pianist. Along another wall various well-known dancers wait, one drinking Pepsi-Cola and reading a book. Along another, on folding chairs, sit the notator, the designer, the assistant to the choreographer, and the choreographer, summons the soloists to the centre and mimes their positions. The music begins and the dancers hurl themselves together. The choreographer returns to his seat. He walks with an unusual glide, the visible legacy of a dancer's training.

At 21, Kenneth MacMillan leapt across the cover of *Ballet* magazine. Soon after, he hung up his ballet shoes for good. "Everyone thought I was mad," he says, "but I couldn't wait to get off the stage." That was in the early 1950s but the reason he disliked being a dancer still gives the best clue to his subsequent work as a choreographer. "I was getting non-interpretive parts, just sheer technique. And that bored me silly."

Sir Kenneth MacMillan, knighted last year after 30 years with the Royal Ballet, is recognized as king of the dramatic ballet, the kind where the dancers are not used, in his words, like "typewriter keys" but as "human beings". Pure technique bored MacMillan as a dancer (as well as terrifying him) and when he became a choreographer he determined to take ballet into new areas. "I felt I was in the theatre, and in general, ballet didn't reflect all theatre can do."

This attitude has made MacMillan enemies among purists who believe it is the very limitations of classical ballet which define its strength. For them, drama weakens its essential nature. Such critics look to Balanchine as the true master of modern classical ballet. Despite a long and successful association with such an establishment as the Royal Ballet, MacMillan still seems beleaguered. He says: "Whatever I have done, I have always felt a rebel."

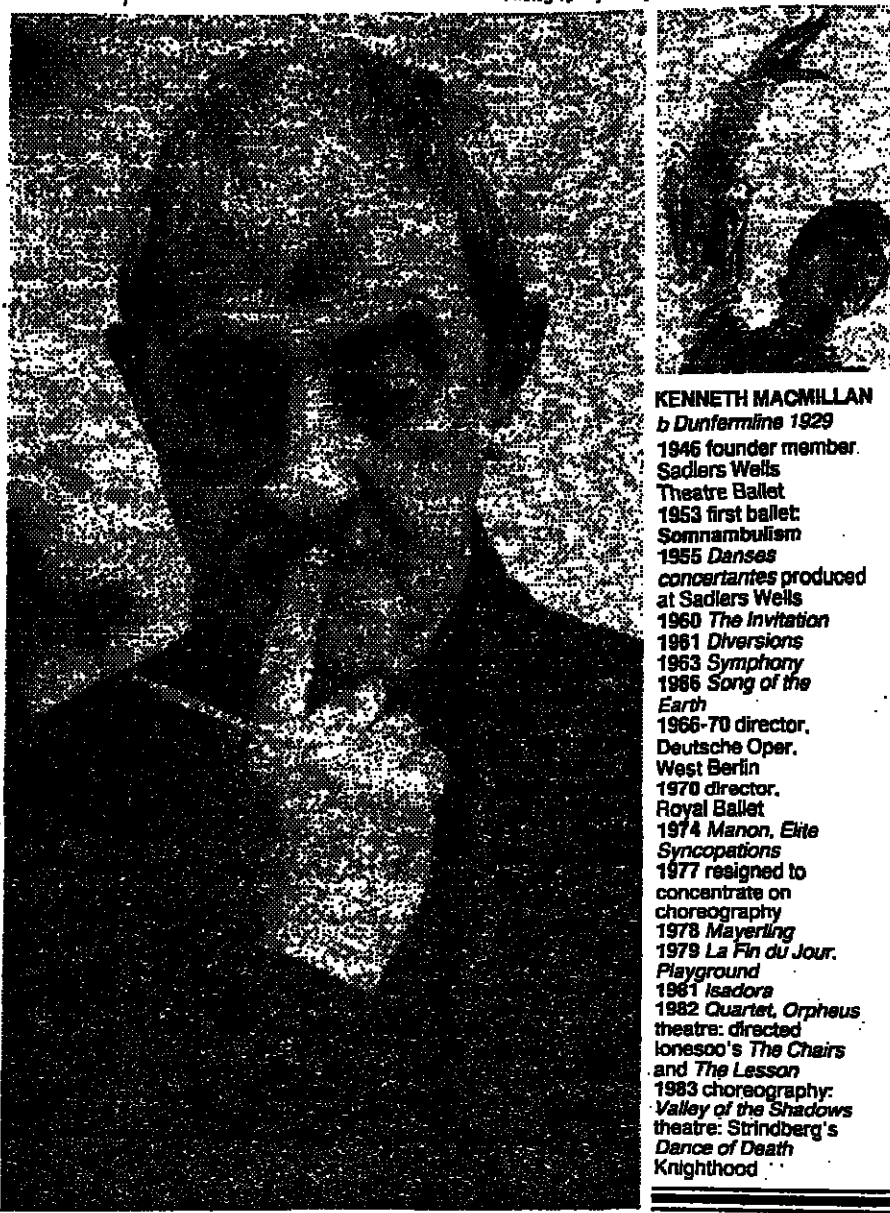
He could have added "outsider" too. Kenneth MacMillan was born in Dunfermline, Fife, in 1929. When he was five his father, who had been gassed in the First World War, lost his money in a chicken farm and they moved to Great Yarmouth to live with his grandparents. The family was "very

The Times Profile: Kenneth MacMillan

working class" - his father had been a miner before the war. MacMillan learned about ballet at the local library, where he spent much of his time. Nijinsky and Fred Astaire became heroes. He listened to classical music on the wireless. (Surprisingly, he has never learned to read music, preferring to "respond to the emotions of the music rather than the mathematics of it"). Then came the war and evacuation for his grammar school and digs in Nottinghamshire. However, as he points out wryly, they returned home for the holidays. "Violence and war is a whole part of my childhood." On the first day of his first holiday his much-loved mother died. This left him with an embittered father, and two much-loved older sisters, one of whom was deaf. By the end of the war, ballet had become a secret obsession. (Even now he describes himself as very secretive). It was then he wrote under his father's name asking Ninette de Valois to accept him at Sadler's Wells school.

"Obsession" and "emotion" are two words that figure largely in Kenneth MacMillan's vocabulary. They sound odd coming from a man whose immediately obvious qualities are gentleness and quiet. In the rehearsal room he uses no demonstration of physical energy to control and command his sometimes large and ebullient forces - 18 marching boys during one session. A very soft clap is his loudest expression of power. The art of gentle persuasion is very important when the body is being pushed to its physical limits. Commands to establish star Wayne Eagling and new star Alessandra Ferri, such as "Kiss in the beat of four", are obeyed as if for a stage performance. But immediately afterwards the scene diffuses into general giggles, in which MacMillan himself joins.

Although the real MacMillan only emerges in the rehearsal rooms, we meet to talk in his house in Wandsworth. It is a large family home inhabited by his beautiful wife Deborah, who paints, their daughter Charlotte, aged 10, who "flirts with ballet", various other relations and two noisy dogs. The household presents an



KENNETH MACMILLAN
b Dunfermline 1929
1946 founder member
Sadler's Wells
1953 first ballet
Sonnambulum
1955 Dances
concertantes produced
at Sadler's Wells
1960 The Invitation
1961 Diversions
1963 Symphony
1966 La Fille du Roi
1966-70 director,
Deutsche Oper,
West Berlin
1970 director,
Royal Ballet
1974 Macbeth, Elie
Simpson
1977 resigned to
concentrate on
choreography
1978 Mayerling
1979 La Fille du Roi
1981 Isadora
1982 Quartet, Orpheus
theatre: directed
1983 The Chairs
and The Lesson
1983 choreography:
Valley of the Shadows
theatre: Strindberg's
Dance of Death
Knighthood

everyday kind of scene. Yet the only book in the sitting room is entitled *Ritual and Seduction*. It lies on a gigantic opium bed which dominates a chorus of dramatic Eastern decorations. "Bought in the King's Road", comments MacMillan. He is a tall man for an ex-dancer. Dame Ninette de Valois refers to him in her memoirs: "Now promoted to the second company from the school is a thin, tall boy of great talent, by name Kenneth MacMillan." That was in 1946.

Dame Ninette was always MacMillan's patron. He describes those early years as "the first time I was with people whom I could talk to about the things I really felt". He was 15, an orphan, living in digs. It was she who encouraged him to try choreographing in the Sadler's Wells Choreographic Workshop. Dramatic works like *The Invitation* and pure dance works like *Symphony* made him the natural successor to Sir Frederick Ashton. Yet

MacMillan, although an admirer, had no intention of following in the great man's footsteps. His aims were different, turning away from the fairyland of *Sleeping Beauty* and trying to express his own view of people and the world. He disliked the elitism of ballet, which he felt was removed from real life. He cites *Look back in Anger* in 1956 as an important inspiration.

Naturally enough these views made him controversial and in 1966, despite such successes as *Romeo and Juliet*, he left the Royal Ballet to be director of the Berlin Ballet. He needed to be in a world which was not so constrained by the tradition of classical ballet.

These three German years were another period of lonely isolation for MacMillan - even though he took with him several English dancers, including his own discovery, Lynn Seymour. He

has referred to a breakdown he suffered at this time after the death of his sister in a car crash. Indeed his image as the tormented loner lasts until his marriage in 1974. Nevertheless he continued to create ballets, including a one-act version of *Anastasia*. He returned to the Royal Ballet as director in 1970 for a very long seven years. Since then he has regularly produced ballets of which obsession, self-destruction and sheer horror have been major themes. "I find the tragic more interesting than the comic."

The new ballet which I have been watching in rehearsal and which will be premiered tomorrow (sponsored by Citicorp Bank Ltd) is no exception. It is called *Different Drummer* and based on Buchner's *Woyzeck*. MacMillan arrived at the subject through his production of Strindberg's play *Dance of Death* in Manchester last year, which stimulated his interest in expressionism.

The play is made up of fragments which can be variously ordered but MacMillan has moulded them into a continuous flow. It was the imagery of the play that attracted him and the ballet has the compulsive, nightmare feeling of a painting brought to life. The crazed Woyzeck is danced by Wayne Eagling with an exhibition of non-stop movement which leaves him gasping. "It's the running", he explains. The drum major is danced by Stephen Jefferies and Woyzeck's beautiful but disloyal love by Alessandra Ferri. *Ritual and Seduction* are here made into dance. At one point Ferri becomes Mary Magdalene washing the feet of Christ. The music, *Verklärte Nacht* by Schoenberg, dictates the almost romantic feel of the piece, preceded by Webern's *Pavane*. MacMillan likes the "shock" that comes with transition from one piece of music to another. The visual inspiration comes from painters such as Munch, George Grosz and pictures of the First World War. His father is not forgotten. "Sculptural" is a word MacMillan uses to describe his ballet.

MacMillan feels ballet should be open to the cross-currents of other art forms and not fossilized in a mould set some 30 years ago. He himself had admired and assimilated Balanchine's work in the 1950s - something he feels some critics are only just doing now. "A lot of ballet critics have become stuck in an arrested emotional development of the time when they first saw *Swan Lake*... It's funny how I seem to threaten the way they feel about ballet. I'm not trying to pull it down. I'm just going in another direction." He suggests the short history of British ballet, a mere 50 years or so, as a possible explanation of this sensitivity. At the moment the most classical of all sequences, the fourth act of Petipa's *La*

Bayerre is playing in the same hall as MacMillan's horrific picture of holocaust, *Valley of Shadows*. "Take someone off the street," says MacMillan, "and which ballet would they find most peculiar?" To those who criticize his "step backwards" into the past with such lavish pieces as *Manon*, he states firmly, "What's important is that it's about the human condition."

The dancers for whom he principally creates have a strength of character which reflects his thoughts. "That looks dangerous," he says calmly as Alessandra Ferri drops head downwards from a great height. Her response is to do it again. In the rehearsal room he allows them to join in with ideas, describing it as a "sort of improvisation". Anything else would be like "painting by numbers". In this way, and indeed in his use of time within the structure of his ballets, he has more in common with a film director than the traditional choreographer who strings steps together. It is no coincidence that many of his ballets have been successfully filmed, including an award-winning version of *Mayerling* by London Weekend Television and a new version of Brecht/Weill's *The Seven Deadly Sins* by Granada to be shown this Easter. Granada also made *A Lot of Happiness*, which showed him choreographing a new ballet. He took nearly as much interest in the position of the camera as the dancers. After ballet, theatre, and after theatre, films?

However after *Woyzeck* he is to direct a Tennessee Williams play, *Kingdom of the Earth*, at the Hampstead Theatre Club. It fits once more into the emotional, obsessive MacMillan category. But Sir Kenneth is not so easy to label. Just before I left Wandsworth he casually drops the information that the 1986 ballet for Covent Garden will be *The Prince of the Pagodas* with Benjamin Britten's music. In case I hadn't got the point, he adds genially, "A fairy-tale. With tutus."

"Will it?" gasps his wife. "I didn't know that." "It's a classical ballet," responds MacMillan firmly and adds in explanation, "After so many dramatic ballets I have to go back to my roots again to revise what I think about classical dancing." It is another development in the career of a man who in his efforts to express emotion has stretched the classical vocabulary about as far as it will go. "Some mothers may even be able to bring their children to it," says Sir Kenneth, not exactly threateningly.

Rachel Billington

moreover... Miles Kingston

The cars which come with the built-in clients

Today we proudly present our first-ever motoring supplement - a guide to all the new cars that have appeared on the market in recent months, with performance notes and expert summing up.

Austin Mitchell. The Austin Mitchell is a splendid little run-about model built in Britain which, though not particularly glamorous, gets through a terrific amount of work. Very popular in the Westminster, though not with the Government. Versatile, adaptable and, with more speed, could be a winner. Much featured on television, if not very recently. Highly recommended, but read the small print carefully.

Newcastle Metro. This Geordie product cost a tremendous amount of money in the development stage and many people said it should not be built at all, but now everyone agrees that it is absolutely wonderful, even if nobody seems quite sure what for. The only drawback seems to be that it will not work more than ten miles outside Newcastle, but if you live in the middle of Newcastle and don't get

about much, this should prove no problem. David Jensen. A small, zappy sports model. American import. Uncomplicated, pleasant.

It calculates the cost to the client

Fiat Justitia. The first ever car made specially for lawyers. The furnishing is de luxe, with leather upholstery, leather bookshelves, well-stocked drinks cabinet and servant in attendance. It is equipped with concealed cameras which, in case of an accident, will immediately record conclusive and damaging evidence about any other vehicle involved. What will appeal most to lawyers, though, is the sophisticated computer-meter which calculates the cost to the client of any mile driven whether on business or not. We had it test-driven by a lawyer for an hour in central London and he pronounced it quite satisfactory, though not till about five months later. He charged £140 for the service.

Renault Nevada. Another model which may be of use

to lawyers, this provides an instant divorce and no questions asked. The makers only guarantee it for two years, after which it may break down at any moment. There is ample room for any amount of children, but only one parent.

Chateau Talbot. A pleasant, quiet classy red model, which seems to get better as time goes on. The revolutionary glass body gives all-round vision, but is dangerous in accidents. The cork front end has a safety lead lining: this has so far escaped criticism from the environmental lobby.

Lancia's "Monarch of the Glen". A sturdy Victorian-styled model which is widely seen in Scotland. Not pretty but effective.

Pearl or clear and plugs into mains

Mazda 100w. Available in pearl or clear this model is one of the revolutionary electric types now coming on to the market. Beautifully streamlined. Main disadvantages are that it has to be plugged into the mains. Also in 40, 60, 150 and 200 watts.

Nine Men's Morris. A new estate car from Morris. This is ideal for team expeditions for any game involving nine players. Unfortunately, the only one they have discovered so far is rowing (eight men plus cox) and there is no accommodation for oars or boat.

Bedford Commercial de Luxe. This stylish model, the so-called Woburn, is not particularly different from other super-vans, with one exception: each model is personally driven by the Duke of Bedford, with whom the driver can then have a private dinner afterwards. Bring your own napkins.

Opel Suites. Luxurious new German model in distinctive square shape and five different flavours: lime, strawberry, orange, strawberry and strawberry. (Next week we road-test the flashy new yellow French car, the Citroën Pressé).

The value of junk

Whether or not Henry Ford seriously dismissed history as bunk, he certainly had a high regard for historical junk.

because he amassed the largest collection of steam-powered artefacts in the world at his museum in Dearborn, in Detroit. Ford can thus be regarded as one of the first and most successful practitioners of industrial archaeology, that branch of the history of technology concerned with the examination and interpretation of the physical evidence of industrialization. The value of such evidence - even for the comparatively recent history of the Industrial Revolution - is now widely accepted, and it has stimulated important research in such subjects as the development of iron and steel processes, the typology of textile mills, and the evolution of artisan housing. It has also encouraged the growth of exciting new open air museums, as well as many interesting ventures in local industrial history in more traditional museums.

Steam study

The steam engine, in all its forms, has been a major subject for investigation by historians of technology. The Newcomen Society, the leading British organization in the field, was founded in 1920 and took the name of the inventor of the first commercially viable steam engine, Thomas Newcomen. Since then, members of the society have been exploring the evolution of steam power as it can be reconstructed from both the documentary evidence and the physical remains. This year it will be observing the centenary of Charles Parsons' invention of the steam turbine, one of the significant milestones in the history of modern power technology. The research unit at Bath has assembled a unique photographic record of the stationary steam engine, based on the collection made over many years by George Watkins, classifying many hundreds of such machines according to type, function, and manufacturer.

Listing monuments The centre at Bath also pioneered the recording of other industrial artefacts from all parts of Britain in an attempt to establish a comprehensive re-

FINDINGS

A series reporting on research: History of technology

cord. This has now been incorporated in the National Monuments Record of the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England) as part of its recognition of industrial monuments as a significant part of the national heritage. A similar awareness has become apparent in other organizations such as the National Trust, which has developed Sial Mill in Cheshire as a specialized industrial heritage site.

Giant age

Engineers have played a vital part in the process of rapid industrialization over the past two centuries, so that interest in them, both individually and collectively, has become a prominent feature of studies in the history of technology. It is a curious fact, however, that most recent works of biographical



Watt, left, Telford, top and George Stephenson

To the letter

More has been written about I. K. Brunel, the "Little Giant" of nineteenth-century engineering, than most other British engineers, but his life and work continues to fascinate and to invite new historical perspectives. Attempts have been made recently to reassess his relationships with colleagues such as John Scott Russell, and with the army of contractors and assistant engineers who worked for him. The picture emerges of a man who, for all his great qualities, was something of a slave-driver and aloof disciplinarian towards those under him. Even on projects like his railway ventures in northern Italy he maintained a meticulous supervision over his distant subordinates by a stream of letters and detailed instructions.

R. A. Buchanan

scholarship in this field have returned to the period of canal and railway building before 1860 for their subjects. James Watt, Thomas Telford, the Stephenson, and the Brunels, have thus come to represent an "Age of the Giants", since when engineers have largely lost the distinction of individual fame and the acknowledgement of posterity. They have grown in numbers and in influence through their specialized institutions, but at the price of comparative anonymity and loss of status - a problem addressed by the Finniston Report four years ago, without producing an entirely satisfactory historical explanation. The search goes on.

Hot-air talks

Energy is another central concern of the history of technology. The phenomenal success of the internal combustion engine burning oil fuels has been one of the most important processes in the history of technology in the past 100 years, and one which has spawned many historical and contemporary Members of ICHTEC, the International Committee for the History of Technology will be meeting in West Germany in the autumn to discuss some of

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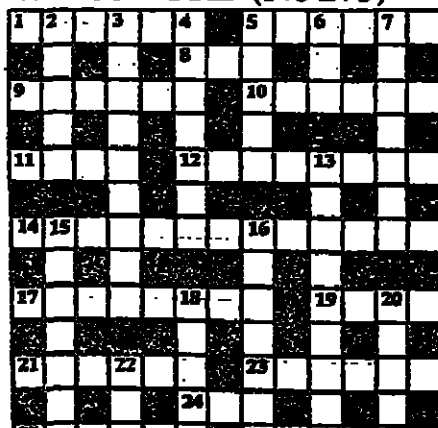
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THE ARTS

Television Country converse

For the next 11 weeks Central will be giving Wednesday evenings a tranquil touch with Edith Holden's *The Country Diary of an Edwardian Lady*. But it is not just her quiet converse with nature we will be getting. A dramatic reconstruction of her life, which means that imagination has taken over where facts fall short, has been added.

So, apart from Miss Holden's observations on the Warwickshire flora and fauna, we get flashbacks to her childhood and her family life. It is a technique that can be troublesome but this adaptation by Elaine Feinstein and Dirk Campbell - he also directed - survived the first episode well. Whether it will become compulsive is another matter.

Last night found Miss Holden, played by Pippa Guard, in the bosom of her family on New Year's Eve, 1906. Here was a large family, with seven children, and only mummy was absent. She had died two years previously and father, bless him, was still heartbroken. Edith, who apparently conversed beyond nature, too, brought him consolation with some frenzied spirit writing which showed that mother, though unalive, was well.

Two of her brothers, who disapproved of her father's Edwardian values - he had a philanthropic approach to labour relations - promise discord later, but on the whole the mood was fairly idyllic and certainly redolent with nostalgia. The nature photography, by the specialist Ted Channell, was beautiful. Somehow a cup of cocoa seemed appropriate with it.

Tranquility reigns also in the three-year-old marriage of Gillian Lynne, 52, theatre director and choreographer of *Cats*, and Peter Land, 30.

They met in *My Fair Lady* in 1979. She thought it would be a long affair, but not that she would marry. She only agreed after exhaustive explanation of the disadvantages of marriage to a much older woman.

She had made too much of it, he said. Success continues for her but not for him. He told John, Pitman, who pops his timely questions in BBC1's *The Other Half* without appearing - which always makes me warm to an interviewer - that he did not mind. She said that when Peter's career took off she would step back. Money? Well, it was a family business, therefore it was family money. She had this image of herself being out to grass one day, but it did not seem likely.

The trouble with *The Other Half* is that one always wonders, despite the camera candour, if there is not another half. But nosiness, even with consenting adults, can I suppose, be pushed too far.

Dennis Hackett

Cinema: Geoff Brown reports from the Berlin Festival and (below) Joan Goodman meets Anne Bancroft, star of *To Be Or Not To Be*, which opens in London tomorrow

Computing through a kaleidoscopic jungle

There is no excuse for thumb-twiddling at the Berlin Film Festival: Monday alone offered 113 separate programmes, running from nine in the morning until the small hours. British delegates arrived for last Friday's opening variously armed with vitamin pills, hefty scarves and thermal socks. We should also have brought portable computers to tame the schedule's jungle. The basic festival machine, however, is as awesomely efficient as ever. True, some usherettes rule their cinemas with iron, but there is no shortage of friendly faces: where else but in Berlin would you find a respected director like Rudolf Thome helping in the lobby, dispensing soft drinks and earphones?

No translations were necessary for the competition section's opening attraction, Ettore Scola's *Le Bal*. This confident transcription of the Théâtre du Camargo's stage spectacle describes the fortunes of a ballroom and its denizens solely through dance, music and pantomime. For a time the method beguiles, but the sense of pleasure is slowly nibbled away by the lack of variety and close human observation. Despite all its excited gestures and kaleidoscope of popular songs, the film (a French-Algerian co-production) has a cold heart.

The same might be said of Maurice Pialat's *A Nos Amours*, though here the bleak climate is deliberate (the soundtrack, indeed, features a Purcell morsel called "The Cold Song"). As before, Pialat's subject is youth, but the equable temper that shone through *Passé Ton Bac d'Abord* in 1979 has now turned prickly. The teenage heroine (played with mesmerizing ease by the unknown Suzanne Bonnaire) struggles to combat an hysterical mother, a thuggish brother, an absent father (Pialat himself) and her own emotional immaturity. There are some misjudgments - when characters fly off the handle, the director follows suit - but this is still a film of steady strength, by a talent desperately deserving wider recognition.

Outside the competition, a thousand flowers bloom: films from the Mediterranean, films with tango dancing, German camp, Dutch angst, video allsorts, American titbits like *Gore Vidal: The Man Who Said No* and *The Curse of Fred Astaire*. Some of us spend



Pantomime of dance-hall denizens in Ettore Scola's *Le Bal*

whole days gloriing in Ernst Lubitsch's silents, showing in the retrospective section with ingenious piano accompaniments (Richard McLaughlin, from Britain, is among the relay team). The most trumpeted archival event, however, has been the presentation of F. W. Murnau's classic version of *Dracula*. Nosferatu, screened in a restored tinted print. The original 1922 score is played live on stage: Hans Erdmann's music is properly creepy and gloomy - xylophones rattle, the brass bray ominously - but the level of invention wobbles alarmingly, particularly when set beside the beauty and terror of Murnau's images. The new tinted print enthroned these to

perfection: Max Schreck's Nosferatu tottered towards us in glory - a malevolent drainpipe with skeletal hands, goblin ears and a skewed head. Among the riot of new celluloid, two films deserve special mention. Aline Issermann's *Le Destin de Juliette*, a sizzling first feature, displayed rare dramatic tact and an excellent eye for visual composition, though the script ultimately fell into bad habits (a loveless marriage, a drunken husband, a noble wife: we have been here before). The festival's biggest visual treat, however, has been *The Village of Mist* by the Korean director Im Kwong-Tae, best known for *Mandala*. The story revolves round a young teacher

and the local ruffian, who scampers about the tightly-knit community like a licensed satyr.

And so to the future. Prospective pleasures include John Cassavetes's *Love Streams* (the closing attraction), *Crackers*, by a Frenchman in America (Louis Malle), *Les Voleurs de la nuit*, by an American in France (Samuel Fuller) and a portrait of Dietrich by Maximilian Schell. Britain has sent two competition entries, both due in the West End soon: *Champions*, the biography of the jockey Bob Champion, and Ronald Harwood's backstage drama *The Dresser*. The German title for the latter is *Ein ungeheures Paar*. It almost sounds naughty.

'Maybe you're going to see more of me and less of Mel'

Someone once said of Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers that he gave her class and she made him sexy. It would be nice to say of Anne Bancroft and her husband Mel Brooks that she gives him class and he makes her funny. In fact, she is funny on her own.

"People forget that my first

big success was in a Broadway comedy, *Two for the Seesaw* [it won her a Tony award]. But the film of *The Miracle Worker* [for which she won her Oscar] came along and because of that people started sending me dramatic scripts. I didn't do much comedy after that."

When discussing *To Be Or Not To Be*, which opens in London tomorrow and in which she and Brooks star together for the first time, Ms Bancroft recalls: "I like it better every time I see it. I've seen it six or seven times. The first couple of times I saw it, I never saw anyone but me. I think it was about the fourth time I turned around to Mel and said, 'Oh, you're in it too, you're very good.' She lets out a bubbling laugh.

"Why has it taken Brooks and



Anne Bancroft: "The most beautiful thing"

Brooks so long to work together? 'Well, I did a cameo in *Silent Movie*', Bancroft says. 'But it was really a question of this favourite film coming along as Mel's next project and of the timing being right. I'm extremely fussy about scripts. I think no work should happen until the script is absolutely perfect. However my husband, as a director, will often direct with the theory that we'll fix it up with the acting and the direction. When I first saw the script the only part I looked at was my own. I said, 'I'd like this fixed and can I have a better line there and can I have a better scene here and all that stuff. So my part is absolutely wonderful. That's the advantage of sleeping with the producer.'

Like many actresses of her generation, whose film careers began during the twilight of the Hollywood system, Bancroft acquired a jaundiced view of her profession. Despite acclaim

for her performances in *The Pumpkin Eater*, *The Graduate*, *The Elephant Man* (produced by Mel Brooks's company) and others, Bancroft herself derived little pleasure from her work and frequently fled Hollywood for the stage and Broadway.

"Making films was largely an unhappy experience for me," she says. "So *To Be Or Not To Be* really came as a revelation. It was the first time I thought, oh my goodness, you can work and you can have fun. Working with your husband is more difficult than working with a stranger, but at the same time the rewards are much greater. When it was good he was loving it and I was loving it, the thrill was enormous. And when he hurt my feelings, you know, the hurt was greater than it would be with a stranger."

According to Bancroft, life chez Brooks is a volatile affair in any case. "When I hear Mel's key in the lock, my heart

flutters. It's true. He's such a party. Remember when you were a kid and company came? That's what he's like."

Clearly the formula works since Brooks and Bancroft have been married 19 years. Though Bancroft's image as an actress is the opposite of Brooks's boisterous, deliberately vulgar clowning, that as she shows in *To Be Or Not To Be*, is just an image.

One of the highlights of *To Be Or Not To Be* is its opening sequence, where Bancroft and Brooks sing and dance "Sweet Georgia Brown" in Polish. "Mel came home and told me the idea and I laughed hysterically. Then I thought, how the hell are we going to learn it? There's a wonderful saying: 'Inch by inch, life is a cinch - yard by yard, it's very hard.' I had my kid put it on a T-shirt. And that's the way we learnt the song. We sat with a teacher every day and learnt one line a day. At the end of a month, we not only knew it, we could get up and sing it. The next month, we put a dance to it."

Though *To Be Or Not To Be* received generally good reviews in America, the main praise was for Bancroft, with some reviewers expressing doubts about Brooks's ability as an actor rather than a comic. Did this come home and tell me the idea and I laughed hysterically. Then I thought, how the hell are we going to learn it? There's a wonderful saying: 'Inch by inch, life is a cinch - yard by yard, it's very hard.' I had my kid put it on a T-shirt. And that's the way we learnt the song. We sat with a teacher every day and learnt one line a day. At the end of a month, we not only knew it, we could get up and sing it. The next month, we put a dance to it."

Concerts

Bach Choir/ Willcocks

Festival Hall/Radio 3

Hereford and the Three Choirs heard William Mathias's vast new choral work, *Lux Aeterna*, in 1982; on Tuesday, the Bach Choir and London Symphony Orchestra, who are about to record the work, presented its first London performance with soloists and the Choristers of St George's Chapel, Windsor, under the baton of Sir David Willcocks.

There was a certain sense of occasion, it is true; any such gathering of forces is bound to ensure that. But the celebration seemed less in honour of Mathias, in his fiftieth birthday year, than of the ceremony of composers who, be it consciously or subconsciously, he paraded before our ears.

The work is a well-crafted, sturdily sustained collage of Mass texts, Marian anthems and Campbell's translations of St John of the Cross. It is also, and more distractingly, a collage of remembered voices, some leaping out to be caught, others, annoyingly, slipping just out of sight. There is Britten,

at the tinkle of a tubular bell; there is Elgar, genuflected to in the latter-day demon voices of the "Libera me"; there are rumblings of Bartok's *Bluebeard*, even; and then, at last, in the climactic Gloria, a swagging voice of real Welsh hwy!

It is the more pity that the work forces one into obsessive fingerprint spotting, as its writing is workmanlike, its intentions clear, its verse settings courageous, and, in the hands of Felicity Lott, Margaret Cable, and Penelope Walker, sometimes distinctive. But the polarity of ideas on which it is based, combined with its heavy echoes, weigh it down with a literalness which soon numbs the listener.

Where Mathias's work seemed to be a task set and conscientiously worked through, Debussy's too rarely performed *La Damoiselle elue* was music of spare necessity and spontaneous response. As a delightful herald to the forthcoming Pre-Raphaelite display further upstream, his austere sensuous cleansing and raising up of Dante Gabriel Rossetti's poem was sung with tender ecstasy by Felicity Lott.

Hilary Finch

English Echoes Purcell Room

The effect of the work of James Joyce upon the music of this century has been far-reaching, stretching as *The New Grove* tells us, to the open-ended form of Boulez's Third Piano Sonata. But, strangely, many of the composers represented in the English Echoes concert on Tuesday seemed to have experienced difficulty in setting his words to their own music. Perhaps Joyce's spoken music is, after all, enough.

Stewart Hutchinson, the group's fine accompanist and compiler of its programmes, had obviously done some painstaking research for this occasion. Of the five Moeran settings he chose, only one, "Strings in the earth and air", beautifully sung by Jean Rigby, rose with its spicy harmonies above tameness.

Bax's aggressive "Watching the needleboats" - one of several songs taken from *The Joyce Book*, the collection published in 1932 - was delivered with fire by Fiona Dobie, but neither of the Bridge settings served to enhance the words and Howells's response

in his "Flood" seemed all too stormily obvious.

And so it was left to foreign composers to match verse with music of comparable originality and naturalness. Samuel Barber managed it best. The anger of "I hear an army" was unleashed vehemently by Gordon Jones, while the passion of "Rain has fallen" (Miss Rigby) and the twilight elegance of "Nuvoletta" (Miss Dobie) captured exactly the right flavour. And Symonow's "Gentle Lady" showed Andrew King to be deeply sensitive to the composer's marvellously apt music.

Otherwise he gave an equally moving reading of Britten's version of Yeats's "The Sally Gardens" while Ronald Corp's specially commissioned *Portrait of an Artist as a Young Man* for all four singers, came close to the idiom of Britten's Canticles but lacked their natural cohesion.

William Relton provided the spoken links; his reading of Joyce and others was impeccable, but his delivery of the rest of the script could have sounded more natural.

Stephen Pettitt

Theatre

The Playboy of the West Indies

Tricycle

Just as Chekhov's landed gentry recently turned up unharmed in the West of Ireland, so Sygne's Mayo villagers are now washed up unscathed on the coast of Trinidad. The least you can say of Mustapha Matura's creole version of *The Playboy of the Western World* is that it proves the claim of Sygne's title: the play is not confined to Ireland.

As for larger claims, it is clear that Mr Matura, besides annexing a fresh masterpiece for the West Indian repertoire, intended to bring out colours that were invisible in the original; and here, too, he has done more than transport the events from a damp depressing climate to a baking sunspot. Sygne's story turns on the old Irish custom of parental dominance which keeps sons chained in domestic servitude until, by the time they inherit, they make elderly husbands. Hence Christy's attempted slaying of his father, and the envious admiration of his listeners.

Matura's version is set in 1950, at the time of mass emigrations to Europe. Mama Benin, his witch-like stand-in for the Widow Quin, halts the comedy with a stony speech about "ships going, and every one taking handsome fellas away from here." Thus, when Ken (alias Christy) shambles into the matchwood rumshop and confesses to his desperate deed (with Peggy raising a threatening broom over his head), the response he arouses has less to do with the hatred of parental tyranny than with the revelation of a sexual superman - a rare thing in those depleted parts.

The text follows Sygne's plot to the letter, simply finding local equivalents for the Irish characters. The difference is

that Irish fantasy is supplanted by West Indian sexuality. In Nicholas Kent's Oxford Playhouse production, the girls (Joy Richardson and Jackie de Peza) sidle on and voluptuously explore the contours Ken's body has left on the rice bags.

After the races Joan Ann Maynard's queenly Peggy finally succumbs and licks the sweat off his chest. As for Ken himself, Jim Findley undergoes a greater change than I have seen in any Irish production: beginning as a crumpled, ragged word-spinner and ending as a lion at bay, superb physique quivering with self-confident derision as his cowed onlookers realize what they have missed.

Matura's dialogue, some of it densely idiomatic, is earthily comic in a manner utterly different from Sygne. It extracts the richest performance from Mona Hammond as the juju bandishing Mama, forever lurking on the premises with arms ready to snake out and seize the wavering hero.

As a would-be supporter of the Unicorn Theatre, I find it a penance to comment on Penny Casdagli's *The Green Ginger Strangler* (Arts maturity). The story of a girl called Saffron who lives in Saffron Walden and discovers some eighteenth-century puppets in her bedroom which transport her to the days of saffron and ginger smuggling in Napoleonic Hull, it may set out to reveal that history is more interesting than what appears in school history books. But such is the awkwardness of the time shifts that no story ever gets under way; and you are left feeling that Saffron's only reason for taking off into the past was to escape an irritable mother who feeds her exclusively on cornflakes and lets her children get lost when she goes shopping. Why do the Unicorn sets always wobble?

Irving Wardle

Bed-Pan Alley Shaw

Scottish agitprop theatre is virtually a genre in itself, and those familiar with John McGrath of 7:84 will know roughly what to expect from Wildcat Theatre's David MacLennan: a shotgun marriage of agitprop with a supposedly "good night out". Slabs of lecturing, full of facts and figures that would make good journalism, are shoved alongside delectably synthesized songs and comical sketches that pitch the audience's intellectual level roughly at the age of ten.

If you can read the title without being put off by it, you might guess that the show is about Health Service cuts, a subject that many people care deeply about but would not care to see reduced to preaching-to-the-converted pantomime. There is a plot of sorts, politically interrupted as it often is: a hospital invites a heavily pregnant young princess to close a wing, not open it, and "rationalization" divides a plumber's tasks between providing a royal loo and starting

surgical responsibilities in the maternity ward.

Privatizing runs rife: mental patients accept thin breakfasts, so the chip-shop entrepreneur (David Hicks) makes a packet. Elaine C. Smith inquires if the specialist had "a hard day at the office" and, as an unquestioning working-class granny, complains that doctors tell you nothing. As if professionals, or some of them, can resist retreating into mystique; that is human conceit, not politics. They then line up to cry "Don't give me bullshit, give me agitprop".

Overworked staff, unemployed nurses, dilapidated buildings (to say nothing of government spending priorities) ought to make good theatre and perhaps we need Peter Nichols back again. When you go on a sponsored run for a kidney machine, maybe you should be sponsoring a nurse, they suggest. They complain "Small boys cryin' - Please stop the lyin' - Give me truth, it's more beautiful than romance" to the souped-up musical accompaniment. Chronic schizophrenia is the clear diagnosis.

Anthony Masters

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HOW TO SPOIL A GOOD THING

At just this stage in any economic recovery, Britain characteristically begins to dissipate its energies in an increase in pay and prices rather than production. There are two good reasons to hope that 1984 may prove to be the golden, non-inflationary exception — but another two reasons to fear that pay is already beginning to cause trouble.

For once, during this recovery, Britain is free of the pent-up pressures held and then released by incomes policies, whose normal pattern has been two years of pay restraint followed by a catch-up year in which the benefits are thrown away. There are no wraps to come off earnings in the private sector, and therefore no reason, on this score, to expect the kind of pay scramble experienced in 1974 or 1979. What is more, since private industry has suddenly discovered the meaning of productivity, the present rate of increase in earnings is being translated into very modest increases in labour costs and hence prices. First indications are that this productivity revolution is continuing right through the recovery, when many economists feared it might begin to peter out.

As the deputy governor of the Bank of England pointed out in a major speech last night, productivity has been rising much faster, recently, than in other major economies — improving our cost competitiveness by a healthy 25 per cent since the nadir of 1981. But he took the opportunity to sound a warning too. Some of the improvement has been used to rebuild profits rather than hold down prices. That is valuable, so long as those profits are now used to boost investment. If not, there is a danger that they will be drained away in higher wage increases.

Pay rises in industry have not followed price inflation down to

4 per cent-5 per cent. Instead the rise in earnings has got stuck at about 8 per cent; in manufacturing, the increase is now just under 10 per cent. Admittedly, this reflects the productivity increases and surge in overtime common in the early stages of an economic recovery, which are normally followed by a rise in employment when the possibilities of increasing existing workers' overtime have been exhausted. Pay settlements are running at lower levels. But the figures are still too high. They mean real wages are continuing to rise at a time when Britain, and its three million unemployed in particular, are more clearly in need of still greater improvements in cost competitiveness to reverse a poor performance in manufactured trade.

There is another sense in which industrial pay rises are beginning to cause trouble. In the early stages of the recession, public-sector workers did unfavourably well. Since then the Government has been trying to force public service wage increases down, year by year, both to control public spending and as a signal to private sector employers. For this coming year, its public sector "pay factor" is only 3 per cent, which means that increases over and above this figure will have to be squeezed out of cash limits either by cutting staff numbers or by cutting other kinds of spending (eg. on schoolbooks or office computers). This year's spending figures provide a little elbow room for over-spending on pay, but not much. The Government's favoured special cases, such as the police and, notoriously, the judiciary, can easily mop up the spare cash. So pay increases of 4 per cent-5 per cent for the mass of public service employees could place a real strain on public spending control, while still leaving these

employees with a growing grievance that they are falling behind the private sector in the pay race.

There is a particular group of workers who can aggravate the position still more. The nationalized industries are not directly covered by the 3 per cent "pay factor", though their borrowing limits are calculated on the assumption that they grant similarly modest pay rises. In the past, however, they have frequently granted bigger pay rises and then found the cash by cutting investment or raising prices. Many nationalized industry pay claims reflect what is going on in private industry, at least when pay is rising strongly there. And, as a new study by the National Institute for Economic and Social Research illustrates, pay rises in the nationalized industries are closely followed by the rest of the public sector.

None of these "comparability" effects is instant or automatic. But history shows that driving wages in the public and private sectors too far apart tends to be self-destructive, being followed all too often, as in 1974 and 1979, by catch-up claims the politicians find hard to resist. This is no argument for giving up the attempt to force down wage increases in the public sector. It is a reason for great concern about wage increases in private industry.

The lesson for industrialists, and the Chancellor, is clear. Unlike 1981 or 1982, this coming Budget is not one in which industry should hope for massive expenditure to lower industrial costs. There is far too much danger that windfall cash in industry's hands would feed straight through into higher pay rises. With a higher level of profits, the road to investment and expansion lies open to British industry. In a free market economy, it is up to managements not to throw the opportunity away.

DEMOCRATS IN SEARCH OF A CHAMPION

It is really asking too much of people to insist that no big conclusions should be drawn from Senator Mondale's victory in the Iowa Democratic caucuses. Of course, on a rational level it is true. Only 85,000 people voted in a state of nearly three million and fewer than half of those who voted chose Mr Mondale. Unlike a primary, the caucuses do not involve formal voting by all registered members of a given party. They consist of small meetings of the party faithful in precincts, so their results should tell us even less about the public mood than do primaries. Mr Mondale was therefore building a castle on a pinhead when he announced amid the jubilation of his supporters that "tonight is the beginning of the end of the Reagan administration".

However, at this early stage the election campaign is not just about numbers; it is about images, emotions and organization. There can be no doubt that victory in Iowa has given Mr Mondale a very big lift towards the Democratic nomination. It also helps him in his efforts to show that Mr Reagan is not invincible, especially as opinion polls indicate that he would beat Mr Reagan in Iowa.

Political pundits are now saying that Mr Mondale nearly has the Democratic nomination sewn up. If he does well in New Hampshire the assumption will probably become irreversible. This is not necessarily because

Mr Mondale is seen as the best man to be president. It is more because he has put together a political machine of formidable size and efficiency and has raised the funds to finance it. No other Democratic candidate can rival him in this respect.

What he has done is to seize the new fragmented structure of American politics and turn it to his advantage. Since power is no longer in the hands of the local party machines it is not enough to win the support of local party bosses. They cannot deliver their votes in the way they used to. They have been superseded by interest groups devoted to single issues or the concerns of limited sections of the population. Equipped with very refined computerized mailing lists they can mobilize their supporters across the nation on behalf of whichever candidate they regard as most sympathetic to their cause.

Mr Mondale has gone after them with the same single-minded dedication that previous candidates brought to the pursuit of big city and state bosses. He has won the support of the labour unions (with thirteen million names on their mailing list), the National Organization for Women, the National Education Association, the Black Alabama Democratic Conference, and more.

This looks like the obvious road to success at any rate as far as the nomination, but there is

always the risk of a reaction. The modest but significant achievements of Senator Hart and Mr McGovern in Iowa (more than a quarter of the votes between them) show that there is still a demand for a clearer stand on principles and broad issues. Mr McGovern represents the old liberal heart of the party. Mr Hart is its new young head, which has re-thought many of the old liberal assumptions about the role of the state in re-distributing wealth. Mr Mondale, by attempting to be all things to all men, risks becoming blurred and too much associated with the high spending and high taxes that would be required to placate all his interest groups at the same time.

Hence there is still a role for the other candidates in pressing for clarification of Mondale's positions. Senator Glenn may now be out of it, the victims as much of a very poorly run campaign as of his rather lacklustre conservative image. Senator Hart, on the other hand, although extremely unlikely to get within sight of the nomination, is young enough to be thinking of next time. He can therefore play a useful role at this stage by reminding the party that politics is not just about interest groups, mailing lists and organization but also about broader national and foreign issues. He will lose but he could lose in a way that does some service to his party and leaves him with credit for the future.

THE GREENHOUSE EFFECT

The Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution is a standing commission whose irregular reports jog government departments and inform educated opinion, which maintains a lively concern about modern man's propensity to foul his planetary nest. The commission generally reports and makes recommendations about particular topics, air pollution, nuclear power, oil in the sea, lead... Its tenth report, published yesterday, is more of a tour d'horizon, and it is unquestionably useful to have the commission's account of the latest state of play in subjects big and small, from straw burning to melting of the polar ice-caps.

Acid rain is at present in the forefront of environmental debate in northern Europe. The commission, which prefers to call it acid deposition since it may be wet or dry, is not yet ready with detailed recommendations. But it classifies it as "one of the most important pollution issues of the present time" and accords it a high priority for research into its causes and effects as well as remedial measures. That form of pollution illustrates very clearly the transnational character of any effective

programme of preventive measures. The cost of removing a source of pollution may fall in one country while the cost of not removing it may fall in several others.

Another global atmospheric threat comes from the increase in the concentration of carbon dioxide. The increase is caused partly by deforestation, much more by the burning of fossil fuels. The carbon dioxide traps heat within the atmosphere by reflecting back radiation that would otherwise be lost into space. The higher the concentration the higher the temperature becomes, with the consequence of major climatic changes. The royal commission concludes that we can be certain that carbon dioxide concentrations in the atmosphere are increasing, and we can be fairly confident that the earth's atmosphere will be warmer as a result. There is less certainty about the magnitude and distribution of the effects. But they are potentially serious enough to lead the commission on to its most controversial, and probably most important, conclusion.

Uncertainty about the climatic, and therefore physical, economic and social effects, of

continued reliance on fossil fuels as the principal source of energy, makes it imperative, in the commission's view, to have alternative energy strategies — that is to say alternative combinations of fossil, nuclear and renewable source uses — so that a switch might be made if the "greenhouse effect" looked like becoming really troublesome. Thus it is that despite the environmental problems of a different kind attendant on nuclear power generation the commission supports "a modest increase" in nuclear power capacity in order to give flexibility and as part of a strategy for reducing dependence on fossil fuels.

Nuclear waste disposal, which was singled out in a report by the royal commission six years ago as a brake upon the development of nuclear power because of its technical inadequacy, is not examined in its technical aspect in this report. That is a pity in view of the commission's advocacy of nuclear expansion, however modest, and the impression one derives from elsewhere that the technical and environmental problems surrounding nuclear waste disposal are far from being sorted out.

A new way with political funds

From Mr John C. Griffiths

Sir, Deplorable as Sugar Daddy political funding may be, members of other parties, while condemning the connivance between Tories and Socialists to preserve their own sources of involuntary contributions, should not crow too loudly. In recent times as much as a third of Liberal Party central funds have derived from one or two individual benefactors. It is both humiliating and undemocratic for the elected leadership of a political party to have to go on begging-bowl expeditions to whimsical benefactors as I have done, simply to ensure the party's survival.

We have in general been fortunate in that these benefactors have rarely tried to tie political or organisational strings to their gifts. More importantly, and I believe the most significant reform within the Liberal Party during the year of my presidency, the annual assembly at Harewood for the first time abjured private patronage in favour of a member-based system of funding the party.

While it would be too much to expect the Conservative and Labour parties to give up their business and union sources of funds altogether, it might be more difficult for them to resist proposals for a reasonable limit on their exactions.

Two simple reforms would do much to strengthen the independence of our parliamentary democracy: a ceiling of £5,000 a year on the sum any individual or organisation, including companies and trades unions, could give to a political party or spend on the pursuit of a political party's objectives; and the election of its candidates; and a pound for pound matching from state funds of the voluntary contributions raised by any party securing 5 per cent of the national vote or, where appropriate, the regional vote.

Yours etc,
J. C. GRIFFITHS (Immediate Past President, Liberal Party),
Llethrydnewn,
Pontfryn,
Breckon, Powys.

Countryside heritage

From Lord Melchett

Sir, Amid his concern over whether those of us who wrote condemning the destruction of hedgerows and wild flowers in Essex should have addressed our letter (February 6) "as from" of from this farm, Lord Hampden (February 8) suggests that wild flowers are safe on the Sussex Downs and elsewhere because farmers have cared for them over the centuries.

In fact, as the Government's Nature Conservancy Council has recently said, since 1949 about 95 per cent of lowland herb-rich hay meadows have been destroyed, along with the hundreds of thousands of acres of moorland, downland, heathland and ancient lowland woodlands already lost, and still being destroyed.

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds gave evidence to a House of Lords select committee recently in which they revealed that, according to Ministry of Agriculture statistics, the current annual rate of loss of moorland in England and Wales is over 18,000 hectares, with 58,000 hectares being lost each year in Scotland.

Not far from downland that Lord Hampden wrote about exempt — 80 per cent of lowland chalk and limestone grasslands have gone since 1949, largely as a result of "conversion to arable or improved grassland", according to the Nature Conservancy Council.

Unfortunately, Lord Hampden's own estate has not been spared from this depressing catalogue of destruction, and a considerable acreage of formerly open downland has been ploughed on the Glynde estate, for example, near Mount Caburn.

The farmer who criticized in our original letter is filling in a ditch and has ploughed out the bank, where wild violets and cowslips were growing, to incorporate it into an already vast field.

Apart from this total destruction, we know that the razing of two lengths of hedge to 3in from the ground was not simply a routine maintenance operation, as some of your correspondents have suggested. The motive for razing the length of boundary hedge was the landowner's desire to prevent his neighbour shooting what he saw as "his" pheasants from it.

It is clear from the overwhelming response we have received to our original letter that people all over the country feel impatient and outraged at the senseless and selfish destruction of our countryside. It must be stopped, both by altering the idiotic agricultural subsidies and by giving the community as a whole a say in the decisions now being taken by individual farmers and landowners.

Yours sincerely,
PETER MELCHETT,
Courttyard Farm,
Ringstead,
Huntingdon, Norfolk.
February 16.

Business for Britain

From the Chairman of the Export Group for the Constructional Industries

Sir, Major overseas construction projects secured by British firms create employment at home and abroad for UK nationals, contribute to the balance of payments substantially, and usually spearhead further business for Britain. Moreover, they do serve as substantial demonstrations of current British skills and achievements in a world where otherwise we may be just past history.

Almost without exception, these major projects are carried out for Government ministries or Government-sponsored corporations and

Unity of interests in Antarctica

From Sir Donald Logan

Sir, If the rôle of the states who are consultative parties to the Antarctic Treaty is to be fairly assessed, more needs to be said in their defence than has so far appeared in your correspondence (February 4, 8, 13 and 16).

From recent observation, I can confirm that Antarctica is still "a vast beautiful wilderness, the domain of its wildlife and its scientists". Had there been no Antarctic Treaty it might have been different, as two of your previous correspondents have said. But as the relics of the old whaling stations still visible there testify, the presence of man and the dynamic of his activity are a reality and necessitate protective management if the nature and the peace of Antarctica are to be preserved.

To qualify as a consultative party a state must be engaged in substantial scientific research in Antarctica. Collectively the consultative parties form a repository of knowledge and experience of this unique and critical continent. For practical reasons alone that would seem to impose on them a major responsibility for prudent management. Acceptance of that responsibility led them to develop the Antarctic Treaty system.

These states are not engaged in a carve-up. They are not disposing of resources and are not asserting exclusive rights to anything. The treaty gives them none. All that their conclusions and recommendations can do is to impose restrictions on their own conduct in Antarctica. They are there, and see the need for both evolution and restraint. They cannot bind others, though they can hope that their example in self-restraint will commend itself to others so long as it is seen to be soundly based.

Environmental protection is the foremost consideration. It was in the living resources convention already negotiated and it is, I have no doubt, in the current negotiations about the distant possibility of mineral exploitation.

The system is neither a closed nor a secret one. No application to join

by a state engaged in scientific work there has been refused. All conclusions and recommendations are published by governments and in *Polar Record* (Scott Polar Research Institute, Cambridge). All scientific work may be and is freely published. It should be easier to obtain access to the technical input to the system than it is, say, to get at the input on matters before the European Community.

All who feel their interests involved should certainly be able to contribute. As the United Kingdom delegate at past meetings of the consultative parties I have urged that ample opportunity should be given for representative bodies of opinion to be heard and as a delegate have myself discussed issues with them, though always taking the view that the reality of man's presence and the dynamic of his activity must be recognised.

The system aims to chart a sensible course well before the risk of damage is imminent. It assumes that the responsibility to do so rests chiefly on those actively engaged in Antarctica. It is surely arguable that they are better placed to protect the universal interest than a universal body, would be, most of whose members by the nature of things could never have been there.

Simple, economic, effective and timely measures are needed and sadly the United Nations record in that regard is not impressive. The UN General Assembly's interest in the matter is entirely appropriate, but it should surely be possible to start by an unprejudiced study of the present system rather than by dismissing it (as seemed to be advocated at the outset of this correspondence).

At the same time the consultative parties would do well to demonstrate their recognition of the legitimate interests of the rest of the world and develop more effective liaison with its representative organs.

Yours sincerely,
DONALD LOGAN,
6 Thurloe Street, SW7,
February 20.

Detention of foreigners

From the Bishop of Birmingham and others

Sir, A Bill is about to be enacted which would empower police, immigration and customs officials to detain people who are suspected of no crime in this country, for whom there is no prospect of a charge in British courts and for whom there will be no right of redress.

Clause 12 (2) (b) of the Prevention of Terrorism Bill, now in the House of Lords, is drawn so widely that anyone who has ever been associated with a liberation struggle ("the use of violence for political ends") anywhere, at any time, will be liable for detention for up to seven days.

The Home Secretary has placed on record the fact that the clause is far wider in scope than the Government considers necessary. He has acknowledged that it goes beyond the recommendations of the Jellicoe Report on which the Bill is based. He says, however, that his civil servants are unable to draft a narrower alternative clause which would still meet the needs of the Government.

To remedy the situation he has undertaken to issue a circular to the police advising them to limit their application of the law. Such a circular will have no standing in the courts and will advise police officers

to be lax in the performance of their statutory duty, which is the enforcement of the legislation passed by Parliament.

Britain has a long history as a haven for refugees from their own countries, where they may have been subject to repression, torture or murder. This country also has a long history of providing neutral territory for the peaceful resolution of conflicts through negotiations. If the Bill had become law at the time of the Lancaster House Conference, the participants from Zimbabwe would have found themselves liable to arbitrary detention!

We believe that, on such a sensitive matter, a Bill of this kind should define precisely the powers that are needed, and that the present Clause 12 (2) (b) has been drawn so widely as to endanger our reputation as a country in which visitors are welcome: to go about their affairs peacefully, and in which overseas conflicts may from time to time be peacefully resolved.

We therefore urge the removal of Clause 12 (2) (b) from the Bill. Yours faithfully,
HUGH BIRMINGHAM,
KENNETH LICHFIELD,
STANLEY MANCHESTER,
DONALD SOUTHWARK,
As from Bishop of Birmingham,
Old Church Road,
Harborne, Birmingham.
February 20.

Aerial photographs

From Dr C. Board

Sir, Professors Rhind and Cooke (February 9) are absolutely right to stress the crucial importance of a properly constituted index of air photographs in computerized form (ideally for the whole of Britain, not merely England). It is the only sensible way of making maximum use of this invaluable information source.

How encouraging it is, therefore, to know that initial searches of the coverage of Royal Air Force photography are already made by computer for a fee of £5, unless the potential user of such photographs already has additional information such as sortie or frame numbers. For the time being the central register's manually operated indexing system allows users to obtain such information free. Provided that the central register can be properly housed and maintained, the information it contains ought to be freely available without charge. Computerized access to a unified index should be cheaper to provide than would a completely manual system.

Yours etc,
CHRISTOPHER BOARD,
Department of Geography,
London School of Economics and Political Science,
Houghton Street, WC2.

Severn Bridge

From Professor Emeritus Sir Alan Harris

Sir, The Severn Bridge is a marvel of economy and grace. Those wind-induced oscillations which have beset previous suspension bridges have been put here by a novel and elegant structural form.

All major bridges need maintenance, as does this one; if, however, it would be in distress under some barely credible combination of loads such as the deck filled with lorries nose to tail and a typhoon blowing, then what is needed is not reconstruction but management.

ministers like to talk to ministers. Therefore, to be up with the competition, British contractors regularly need the support of HMG ministers in the field. Foreign governments have for a long time deployed their front men with skill and marked success.

The Export Group for the Constructional Industries has long pleaded for this ministerial support and warmly welcomed acceptance of the rôle by HMG a few years ago; we pursue the widening of its application.

We are grateful for, and applaud, the lead which our Prime Minister has given to this very valuable support for our members and where one British contractor only is involved in an international compe-

tion it contains ought to be freely available without charge. Computerized access to a unified index should be cheaper to provide than would a completely manual system.

Yours etc,
CHRISTOPHER BOARD,
Department of Geography,
London School of Economics and Political Science,
Houghton Street, WC2.

Old two hundredth

From Mr James R. Cullen

Sir, Sir Laurence Graffley-Smith's penny (February 7) would have taken his letter, or my two post cards, to the remotest British island in the South Pacific, while "a penn'orth of pot-erbs" went a long way towards feeding a young family.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES R. CULLEN,
Weathercock House,
Hawthurst, Kent.

Here are two measures: install toll booths at the near end of each carriageway so that any build-up of waiting traffic is off the bridge; appoint a bridgeward, as at the Humber bridge, a qualified and experienced engineer, equipped to monitor and control traffic.

Four lanes can thus be kept flowing save for very rare occasions — and at little cost.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN HARRIS,
Department of Civil Engineering,
Imperial College of Science and Technology,
Imperial College Road, SW7,
February 18.

the rest of us gladly accept that he should have as much support as HMG can give and at the highest level.

It is in the national interest that this should be continued and we are concerned that the criticism to which our Prime Minister is being subjected at present should not deter her or other ministers from maintaining this support; we record our thanks for the stand which she has taken.

Yours faithfully,
TOM CANDLISH,
Chairman of Council,
The Export Group for the Constructional Industries,
Kingsway House,
15-17 King Street,
St James's, SW1.

Royal broadcasts and responsibility

From Mr J. Enoch Powell, MP, for South Devon (Official Letter: 20/2)

Sir, The very clarity and precision of Lord Blake's answer (February 20) to the questions I posed at Leicester on January 20 throws the absurdity of our situation into relief.

When the Queen visits her realms overseas she does so as their respective Sovereign and speaks and acts there on the advice of her local ministers.

When she visits the remaining Commonwealth states she speaks and acts on the advice of her UK ministers, i.e., as Queen of the United Kingdom. Yet, so Lord Blake says, it "has always been the convention" that twice a year she speaks to the Commonwealth upon no responsible advice at all.

When was this convention declared? And what ministers accept responsibility for it, remembering that advice that advice is not requisite is also advice?

I am, Sir, etc.
J. ENOCH POWELL,
House of Commons,
February 21.

Schools' cash cutbacks

From Professor E. C. Wragg

Sir, I wonder if those who live in large urban areas realise the effects that Government financial cutbacks are having on small village schools. In the county of Devon, for example, there are 39 such schools with minimum staffing of two teachers which are about to lose one of those for half of each day. This means that the heads of these schools will be teaching 30 children aged five to 11 every afternoon entirely on their own.

Village schools form a very important part of the community in many rural areas. The maintained system of education may not manage to eradicate inequality, but it should certainly be able to remove some of the more gross examples of deprivation, be these urban or rural. Unfortunately small village schools are often located in remote areas and are not easily able to organise themselves into a pressure group to fight decisions made in London or their county hall. Unless a humane policy towards them is adopted, however, many will have to provide a sub-standard education when previously they have offered an excellent one.

If parents eventually defect to other areas where there is more lavish provision, then the villages themselves will simply die. Yours,
E. C. WRAGG, Director,
School of Education,
University of Exeter,
St Luke's,
Exeter,
Devon.

Rates levy on moorings

From Mr G. H. Gower

Sir, It may not be generally known, but the Rates Bill proposes to levy rates on swinging moorings. The Government has promised to reduce taxes on sport, not increase them. Many of the moorings are traditional in nature and have been so used since Roman times. They do not provide high security in themselves and need to be watched over. The whole of the mooring gear can be lifted and carried away and is extremely difficult to trace.

To levy rates on swinging moorings is to encourage indiscriminate anchoring and create hazards to commercial shipping, and private users in areas adjacent to sailing waters. Swinging moorings are used by yachtsmen of modest means, instead of expensive marinas, to keep their costs down and to eliminate their reliance on riverside and dockside facilities.

Yachting and yachtsmen are keeping the maritime skills of this nation alive in a healthy sport which should be encouraged, particularly those who have developed the independence and seamanship to use swinging moorings. I sincerely hope that the Government will drop this proposal from their Rates Bill. Yours sincerely,
G. H. GOWER,
Manor House,
Four Oaks,
Rye, Sussex.

Sacred and profane

From Professor Hugh Lloyd-Jones

Sir, The symbolism of the flaying of Marsyas by Apollo, correctly explained, with reference to Dante, by the author of your interesting second leader of today (February 18), is fully worked out by Edgar Wind in his famous book *Pagan Mysteries in the Renaissance* (2nd edition 1968).

"The cruelty inflicted on Marsyas by Apollo..." Wind writes, "expresses the supreme sense of disproportion by which the god attacks the human frame, which is agonised as it succumbs to the divine ecstasy". I am, Sir, yours etc.
HUGH LLOYD-JONES,
Christ Church,
Oxford,
February 18.

Fighting talk

From Mr Roland Scott-Jackson

Sir, One is grateful to Mr Jack Adrian (February 17) for his explanation of Mr Neil Kinnock's puzzling remark.

However, it is still not clear from this exegesis whether US Secretary of State George Shultz lost his cool, blew his top, went through the roof or merely slipped a tile.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
ROLAND SCOTT-JACKSON,
Seapoint,
Forelands,
Bembridge,
Isle of Wight,
February 18.

BOOKS

The quiet man who split the atom

Rutherford

Simple Genius
By David Wilson

(Hodder & Stoughton, £14.95)

The splitting of the atom was one of the last achievements of British world leadership - the declining empire's legacy of unimaginable destructive power to the Superpowers, which, by the middle of the 20th century, disputed between themselves the preeminence that had been Britain's when Ernest Rutherford was born in 1871. It was essentially an imperial achievement for the man who more than any other unlocked the secret of the atom was born in New Zealand, as far from the home country as it is possible to get, in a crude, pioneering society, but one which, far more than Britain at that time, valued and encouraged the teaching of science.

It was natural that after graduating brilliantly from Canterbury College, he should look towards England, and appropriate that he should have been enabled to come by the award of a scholarship endowed out of the profits of the 1851 Exhibition. It was more by luck than design that he found his way to Cambridge, and the Cavendish Laboratory, founded only 24 years earlier in the year of his birth, thanks to a timely change in the regulations. Rutherford was the very first non-Cambridge graduate admitted to do research there. One of the strengths of this book, is the way David Wilson shows the scientific opportunities expanding just as the young Rutherford was coming up to take advantage of them: a very few years earlier, his career would not have been possible. Continuing the imperial theme, Rutherford left Cambridge in 1899 to become Professor of Physics at McGill University,

Montreal, aged only 27. A sense of scientific isolation, however, - North America was then still a relative backwater - drove him back to Manchester, in 1907, and eventually to the Cavendish, the laboratory which will always be associated with his name, in 1919. It was in Canada, though, that he first routed the hitherto dominant chemists by demonstrating the transmutation of matter by radioactivity, for which he received the Nobel Prize in 1908, ironically, for chemistry. And it was at Manchester, not Cambridge, that he first split the atom.

During the second half of his life, Rutherford increasingly moved out of the laboratory - though the Cavendish remained his base - into a wider sphere of public usefulness, and scientific politics, as the Great Panjandrum of British science. He did important work on anti-submarine techniques in the First World War, and on air defence before the Second. He sat on innumerable government committees and international scientific committees, and (though entirely unpolitical in other respects) committees to help Jewish refugees from Hitler. These multifarious activities, David Wilson believes, have been hitherto neglected. He devotes a good deal of this book to documenting what he does so, partly because Rutherford, away from his own subject, was a decent, but exceedingly dull man, partly because Wilson himself is not at home with the world of politics.

Wilson was for 20 years Science Correspondent of the BBC, and his strength lies in expounding Rutherford's work to the layman. Here, his enthusiasm matches, and captures, Rutherford's. However effective he may have been in other spheres, Rutherford's genius lay in the laboratory, and



Ernest Rutherford 1932 by James Gunn

genius it unquestionably was, consisting in an infinite capacity for taking pains (the was above all an experimental scientist) informed by an extraordinary intuitive sense, an ability to "see" the necessary structure of the invisible atom and to "know" what the answer must be before he could prove it. He loved what he always referred to as "his" alpha-particles, and once called ions "jolly little beggars, so real that I can almost see them".

In this almost Heath Robinson inventiveness, he was wonderfully English - though a New Zealander and a thorough professional, completely in the empirical tradition of the gentlemen amateurs who had founded the Cavendish. Although he came to terms intellectually and administratively with both, he disliked equally the theoretical/mathematical approach of Einstein, and the continental physicists and the increasingly vast, expensive and sophisticated machinery which large-scale atom-splitting demanded. Even before his death in 1937, American resources had far outstripped the Cavendish. As for the atomic bomb, it was a good thing he did not live to see it. It was not what he was about, at all.

John Campbell

Woodrow Wyatt reviews Koestler Master and Dog

Stranger on the Square
By Arthur and Cynthia Koestler
(Hutchinson, £9.95)

It is a strange book, but worthwhile. It might have been called "Master and Dog". By far the greater part was written by Cynthia Koestler who came into Koestler's life in 1949 as a part time secretary. She was promptly and gratefully seduced by him and served thereafter as an unrepentant, casually used, concubine, graduating to full time secretary and maid of all work, with occasional breaks including one for a short marriage. As a humble member of the harem she was often afflicted by jealousy but tried to conceal it for fear of being thrown out. In 1955 Koestler condescendingly married her.

The book was intended as a joint autobiography, but Arthur Koestler did not get far with his bit, stopping at 1952. As Cynthia took down from his dictation *The Arrow in the Blue* she could not have been much surprised. There Koestler writes: "To this day women are the poorest characters in my books. The reason is that I like dining with women, talking, listening and making love to women, but to write about them bores me."

Harold Harris, Koestler's literary executor, has eventually arranged what material there is, which tails off in the late fifties. Cynthia Koestler kept a diary from 1961 to 1974 recording further details of their joint life. I hope Mr Harris assembles a book out of it. Obviously her writing is not comparable to her husband's but she has much of interest about his methods of working, his odd beliefs, his causes, his up and down moods, his charm, and what he was getting at in his books which he wrote not for instant applause or money but in the justifiable confidence that posterity would value them.

I was fascinated by Koestler's attitude to women since he first stole a girl from me in the war. A steady supply of them was as necessary to him as alcohol which he also consumed in large quantities.

I have no criticism of Koestler whom I admired and liked a lot even at his prickliest merely a mild envy of how easily he got away with it. Like many men of towering talents he could not flourish unless his entourage subordinated themselves to his public whims. But the rewards were spectacular when the sun was out.

George Milne has described in *Arthur Koestler, the Story of a Friendship*, how he understandably found the progressive Parkinson's disease and leukemia unbearable when they began to destroy his faculties. It was a civilized decision to commit suicide in March 1983 when he was 77. I wondered then why he had let his 55-year-old healthy, vigorous Cynthia do the same. After reading her scraps of autobiography I now understand why.

On the morning of the suicide, according to Milne, she took their much loved dog to the vet to be put down. Whether he wished it or not she was determined to go with Arthur. In his last years he became dependent on her, and with uncommon gracefulness he had acknowledged her importance to him, making their relationship more even.

But she could not face the pointlessness of life without her lost master. Though it was neither his intention nor expectation that she, too, should kill herself it would have been a cruelty for him to have forbidden her. It was the original and noble version of *satire*.

Elaine Feinstein on fiction Letters to my love

The Shelf
By Kay Dick

(Hamish Hamilton, £7.50)

The Stories of Bernard Malamud
(Chanto, £12.50)

The quiet elegance of Kay Dick's latest novel depends for its authority upon the voice of her narrator, Cass, identified as a woman, yet writing of her passion for a dead girl with all the straightforward simplicity of a male lover. It is one of the very few accounts of ambivalent sexuality which bypass the claim to normality for the needs so aroused. All the feelings belong to any other pair of bewildered lovers.

We are prepared for this cleverly enough, by casting the story in the form of a letter to an intimate friend. It is there easy to reveal that a man (with whom Cass had a brief affair) has already declared: "You'd have preferred it if I'd been a woman". And yet even so, for a moment, the reader blinks. Doubting for a moment whether it is the relationship with the man that is homosexual.

Anne, a beautiful girl once married and now separated, has something of the quality of a courtesan. Her letters have an oddly manipulative cleverness, flattery, offering, disarming hesitation. And her erotic presence plunges Cass into a whirlpool of desire which she does not welcome. Anne has had other lovers, who have been men; it is not a relevant issue in their intense, problematic relationship. Even jealousy hurts neither more nor less when Cass discovers a contemporary rival is a male. This short, fierce, intelligent novel is as subtly accurate about the aphrodisiac effects of lesbian love as it is

about the pain of loss; and forgetting; and the fear of death. Sour-faced or gripped with sorrowful love, trapped in the old immigrant culture, or putting a nervous foot out into a New World, in this marvelous collection of the stories of Bernard Malamud the resonance of each man's life is caught in his speech. Malamud is one of the great masters of the short story.

In the ordinary sense of the word, Malamud does not have characteristic themes: unless perhaps, it is the lunacy of pursuit. Two stories complement one another on this tack. The first, "The Last Mohican" has poor unsuccessful Fidele, with his precious chapter of an unfinished study of Giotto in his briefcase, pursued by Susskind, a beggar who has him pinned at once as a Jew susceptible to the demands of charity. Alas, what Susskind wants is a suit; and for the one Fidele is wearing himself he is indebted to a relative; there can be no question of handing over the other in his suitcase. But Susskind is indefatigable; not to say bordering upon the supernatural: even a change of hotel does not throw him off the scent. His presence makes Fidele increasingly uneasy; and when his room is burgled and the precious briefcase stolen he is in no doubt who is responsible. Now the pursuit runs the other way; except that Fidele lacks Susskind's skills. And the outcome is equally sad for both men.

In his quiet, unpretentious Preface Malamud writes: "Working alone to create stories, despite serious inconveniences, is not a bad way to live our human loneliness." For the reader to face that loneliness in Malamud's hands is to make it at once morally knowable and less bleak.

Tim Heald reviews thrillers of the month Rats, moles, worms, and assorted cattle

A Prayer for Fair Weather

By John Broderick

(Marion Boyars, £7.95)

Supporters of what is rather horribly called "genre fiction" are fond of suggesting that, at its best, it is better than most "literary fiction". For at least the first half of the thriller John Broderick is powerful support for this case. He writes beautifully: thumbnail characterisations and descriptions are lapidary; he evokes a spooky underworld of misfits and derelicts deftly and convinc-

ingly; and he has a nice sardonic touch. It's a good book, I submit, which begins, "No, sir, I'm afraid I don't. There's hardly any demand for rats just now. Might I suggest Harrods?" But in the end this quirky tale of London terrorism and double dealing in high and low places fails to live up to early expectations; and it does so because it falls victim to the demands of the genre. Action, confrontation; no loose endings; a triumph, ultimately, of coincidence over character. What begins quite eerily and unusually in a pet shop in Victoria ends with run-of-the-mill spy story exchanges about a

"safe office job in Washington" and "a cousin in the Moscow Embassy". Before he becomes bogged down in plot, however, Mr Broderick is reminiscent of good Chesterton. I particularly enjoyed the leader of the terrorist cell based on the gay "Blue Light" whose name "was Brendan Tupper, and for the first time in many years it was his real one".

Deadly Games, by Edward Topol and Friedrich Nitzmansk (Quartet, £7.95) Full marks for plausibility in this tale of drug smuggling in the Soviet Union. The air of conviction is unsurprising since the authors are both Russian emigrés one of whom once worked in the state prosecutor's office.

Set in 1979 the story gets some of its impetus from the impending Brezhnev-Carter talks in Vienna. These are just a week away from the moment that investigator Shamrayev is called in to deal with the disappearance of one of Russia's leading young journalists, Vadim Belkin of *Komsomolskaya Pravda*. Belkin has been assigned to the official press corps for the Vienna trip and Brezhnev himself wants him along. He has to be found. The temptation to dwell on this angle is mercifully resisted and instead we get an inexorable unravelling of plot by Shamrayev and his colleague from CID, Lt-Col Svetlov. Belkin, it transpires, has got muddled up in the drug business when he bumps into an old school friend at the airport. The friend barely acknowledges him and Belkin puts this down to grief, for the friend is accompanying a coffin. The coffin is extremely heavy and when it falls to the ground it breaks open to reveal a stash of opium. Belkin becomes determined to write an exposure for his paper and his troubles begin.

The story itself is restrained though never less than competent. What lifts it is the portrait of Russia's black

economy and underground world of graft, viciousness and unacknowledged double dealing.

The Russian Woman, by Tom Hyman (Hodder and Stoughton, £7.95). If you are going to be silly you might as well do it in style. By the end of Chapter One the Russian Premier has been murdered while travelling in a cavalcade with the American President. Naturally the Russian's widow seeks refuge in the White House and the President starts fantasizing about "the firm softness of her thigh". Not long afterwards they are in bed together which is understandable because the President's wife is barking mad, but naturally the Russian widow is an enemy agent, who turns out to be one of ours, only to be revealed as...

Bad form to give away too much plot even when it is as wonderfully ludicrous as this one.

Mysterious Railway Stories. Edited by William Patrick (H. H. Allen, £8.95) There are some merry stories among this baker's dozen. Arnold Ridley and Ruth Alexander's "The Ghost Train" is classic Cornish melodrama. Eden Phillips' "My adventures in the Flying Scotsman" is amusingly ponderous; and you couldn't do a railway anthology without Freeman Wills Croft ("In spite of himself, Dunstan Thwaite shivered as he looked at the level crossing"). But the jewel in the crown is Conan Doyle's "The Lost Special". It is a classic of its kind and, though not a Sherlock Holmes story, intriguing for its letter to *The Times* "over the signature of an amateur reasoner of some celebrity at that date". The reasoner barked up all the wrong trees but produced a characteristic maxim: "It is one of the elementary principles of practical reasoning that when the impossible has been eliminated the residuum, however improbable, must contain the truth."

Sharpe's Enemy, by Bernard Cornwell (Collins, £8.50) This is the fifth adventure featuring Richard Sharpe, "the tall dark haired Rifleman with the scar that gave his face a slightly mocking look in repose." Like its predecessors it is set in the Peninsula Wars and invites comparison with C. S. Forester's "Hornblower". After 19 years in the Army Sharpe is a major now, but despite his promotion he seems a less substantial figure than at first, and closer to pastiche. Did Wellington's officers really say "Any questions?" after giving orders. Sounds like a soliloquy to me.

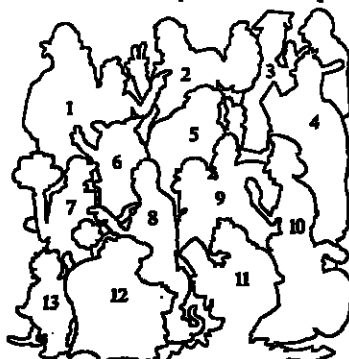
What are the best novels published in English since 1945? There can be no obvious answer to the question. So the task of judging an epoch in fiction that has not yet settled down into clear definition made controversy inevitable.

Everyone has an idea of the novels which should appear on the list and those which shouldn't.

But one thing about which there can be no argument is where to find all thirty books that make up the baker's dozen which is the Book Marketing Council's list.

Come along to W.H. Smith and you can judge for yourself as to their importance in the literary scheme of things.

1. Charley Fortnum, from *The Honourable Consul*, by Graham Greene.
2. Big Ben Riddle-Hook, from *Sword of Honour* (3 novels) by Evelyn Waugh.
3. Jenny Bunn and Patrick Standish, from *Take a Girl Like You*, by Kingsley Amis.
4. Holden Caulfield, from *The Catcher in the Rye*, by J.D. Salinger.
5. Kenneth Widemore, from *A Dance to the Music of Time* (12 novels) by Anthony Powell.
6. Old Major, from *Animal Farm*, by George Orwell.
7. Bulbunt, from *Manservant and Maidervant*, by Ivy Compton-Burnett.
8. Charles Arrowby, from *The Sea, The Sea*, by Iris Murdoch.
9. Humbert Humbert and Dolores Haze, from *Lolita*, by Vladimir Nabokov.
10. Daphne Manners, from *The Raj Quartet*, by Paul Scott; and *Staying On*, by Paul Scott.
11. Moses Herzog, from *Herzog*, by Saul Bellow.
12. Angelica Deverell, from *Angel*, by Elizabeth Taylor.
13. Piggy, from *Lord of the Flies*, by William Golding.



At least there's no argument about where to find the Best Novels of our Time



WHSMITH



COUNTRY LIFE

Pattern worth developing John Cornforth looks at the future of Merseyside's museums if the Government's proposal to abolish the Metropolitan County Councils is implemented.

Dormice that go bump in the night. Since moving house, Ian Niall has found that *glis glis*, the edible dormouse, once considered a delicacy by the Romans, makes a noisy resident.

Restoring the SS Great Britain Basil Greenhill describes the progress of restoration work on the world's first large, iron-built, propeller-driven steamship.

Midmost England The facts and folklore surrounding the Forest of Arden, in the heart of Warwickshire, are investigated by Tudor Edwards

Gardens on the Isle of Wight George Plumtree visits a four-acre garden above Ryde that enjoys the rare luxury of a maritime and virtually frost-free climate

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Patricia Tisdall looks at the Island's economy based on tourism, manufacturing industry and agriculture and in need of new job opportunities.

A lot more than simply sunshine

Located only four miles off the south coast of England, the Isle of Wight's high sunshine records and varied scenery have attracted holidaymakers since Roman times. However, this diamond shaped 144 square mile island is much more than just a pleasant spot for family relaxation.

Although the leisure amenities are its most visible feature, there are also substantial industrial, commercial and agricultural communities which equal tourism in importance to the local economy.

Military boats have been built on the island since the early sixteenth century. From this stems deep roots in innovative high precision engineering projects dating back to before the First World War and the seaplanes developed by the S. E. Saunders and J. Samuel White yards.

The tradition continues on the same site to this day through the Saunders-Roe company's work with missiles and helicopters to its successor, the British Hovercraft Corporation. Added to the engineering skills developed in boatbuilding and aerospace has been an electronic dimension brought in by Plessey Radar after the Second World War.

The design and construction of Thrust II the jet-propelled car which smashed the world land speed record last October at Black Rock Desert, Nevada, is the latest of a long line of pioneering engineering achievements.

John Ackroyd, the designer who spent his formative years at Saunders-Roe, chose to build Thrust II on the island because he knew he could find the skills among the 118,000 residents. Fellow team member and driver Richard Noble praised the support given by individuals in the early stages. "We started this venture with virtually nothing," he said. "People on the island helped us when many of the larger organizations thought we were a bad risk."

The fact that Thrust II was produced by a team of individuals rather than by a big corporation is typical of another island characteristic - self-reliance.

Sir John Nicholson, the energetic Lord Lieutenant, considers its readiness to help itself to be one of the island's chief strengths. As another example of resourcefulness he cites the grain drying and storage depot initiated by the National Farmers' Union as a cooperative venture in 1979.

The NFU's cereals committee stepped in when farmers were faced with the closure of the one commercial supplier. They formed a cooperative company and with EEC aid built the 7,000 ton store on a new quay-side site. The venture has proved a success not only in solving the immediate problems but also in bringing farmers together in other ways.

Discussions are in progress to see if joint marketing ventures can be started for tomatoes and other horticultural products grown in the acres of very advanced greenhouses. Some of the earliest soft fruit and vegetable crops in the country are produced in warm, sheltered conditions away from the coast. But superior marketing by continental suppliers mean that island produce is often not available to fetch the best prices in supermarkets.

Every scrap of self help will be needed if the Isle of Wight is to overcome its severe economic difficulties. For while the two million or so visitors who come to the island each year are very welcome, the business they bring masks an underlying economic picture which is vastly darker than that of the rest of the South of England. The seasonal jobs provided by tourism give an artificial stimulus to the annual average employment statistics scrutinised by Whitehall planners.

The problem is that while similar numbers of employees (about 7,500) are directly employed in accommodating tourists as in manufacturing, three quarters of the tourist jobs last for less than six months.

As Stephen Ross, the Liberal MP for the island, tirelessly points out, the true winter unemployment rate which topped 16 per cent last month for

the second year in succession is among the highest in the country.

Petitions have been lodged on several occasions to be granted Assisted Area Status in order to offer incentives to investors comparable to other employment blackspots. But other government measures being sought by Mr Ross include legislation to enable the three local borough councils to be welded together. Such a move, he argues would "help us all to pull in one direction".

The local authorities have been actively trying to encourage industrial development ever since the 1950s when the island's economy was ravaged by defence cuts. They enjoyed a measure of success with an increase of seven per cent in manufacturing employment against a national decrease of 10 per cent up until 1978 when economic alarm bells started ringing in County Hall.

However the authorities reacted quickly, and in some cases very bravely, as soon as the seriousness of the closures became apparent.

Since 1978 there has been a 20 per cent reduction in the manufacturing and construction sectors and employment in

Holidaymakers by Months

October 1981	28,172
November 1981	17,610
December 1981	19,271
January 1982	5,768
February 1982	12,148
March 1982	20,534
April 1982	56,897
May 1982	111,041
June 1982	193,748
July 1982	225,860
August 1982	277,636
September 1982	97,145
Total	1,003,228

tourism and agriculture has also declined, but at a slower rate.

A series of initiatives were put into effect to first try to alleviate the impact of the job losses and second to start to reconstruct a new industrial framework.

Three new leisure centres with indoor swimming pools and a new public lending library were completed. An employment promotion officer was appointed and an enterprise agency formed to coordinate assistance to small businesses.

Another, more controversial step, was the appointment of Alan Curtis, former chairman of Aston Martin to advise on future direction. Mr Curtis's recommendations completed

last autumn and officially described as "on the table" have not been formally released. However the two major proposals are understood to be first to unite policies through a powerful new Island Development Board and second to concentrate on the tourist industry as the quickest route to job creation.

Not surprisingly, the report was not well received by officials who had been painstakingly trying to build employment alternatives to the low wage, highly seasonal tourist industry for more than three decades.

Although tourism is far from being ignored, official emphasis continues to be on encouraging industrial development to alleviate unemployment.

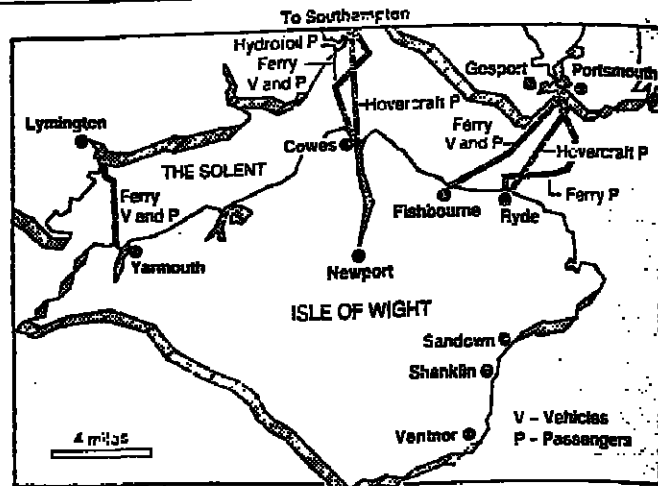
Apart from its skilled workforce, the Isle of Wight claims to be able to offer lower cost land than anywhere else in the South of England. Education, particularly technical education and health facilities, have a high reputation. Above all the quality of life is reckoned to be attractive to key workers and once settled on the island people are loath to leave it.

The main disadvantages of living and working on the Isle of Wight are the costs and delays associated with crossing the

Solent. However, communications at present are extremely good with links by fast hydrofoil and hovercraft as well as conventional boats. Sealink car ferries operate throughout the night. During the day passenger boats connect with frequent rail services from Portsmouth to London to give a total journey time by public transport from Ryde IOW of less than two hours. In addition to Sealink, there are two independent operators offering connections to Southampton and to South-

sea. Like everyone else on the island, John Horsnell, the chief executive of the Isle of Wight County Council, is very encouraged by recent new investment by Sealink. Two new super ferries each of which has about treble the previous car carrying capacity and double the passenger seats and representing a combined cost of about £9m came into operation last year.

But without wishing to appear ungrateful, there is deep concern about the future of the Sealink ferry connection after the operation is privatized from the BR network. The fear is that bigger ferries will lead to less frequent services and that late night winter connections will cease at periods when they are not well patronized.



Keeping tourists happy and staying longer

Tourism in the Isle of Wight is big business. With around one million residential visitors a year and a similar number of day trippers the island is still one of the most popular resort areas in the British Isles. People come to enjoy the varied scenery and warm climate. They also like the extraordinary wealth of places to visit and things to do as well as the friendliness of the 118,000 permanent residents many of whom are themselves "overseers" or mainland born.

Alas, like other British resorts, the Isle of Wight's tourist industry fortunes are on the decline as far as its traditional market is concerned. There has been a steady decrease in volume since the peak of 1968. But the problem is not so much that visitors are coming in fewer numbers but that they are staying for only about half the time.

A recent research study carried out by the English Tourist Board shows that, whereas the fortnight was the most popular holiday duration 15 years ago, the average has now climbed down to about a week with increasing numbers staying for only three, four or five nights. Moreover the forecast for the next 10 years was that short holidays of one to three nights would show the greatest increase.

The alarming discovery that the traditional marketing base of the middle class, middle aged and their families is no longer automatically secured even at peak season lies behind the business plan drawn up by the IOW tourist board last autumn.

The board has not only adopted the "Friendly" slogan identified in the research report for its 1984 advertising campaign, it has also accepted the recommendation that much

higher advertising spending is needed just to maintain present levels of business.

Even Breachley, the board's director, has appealed to the local authorities for extra funds to double the 1983-84 appropriation of £125,000 for mass media advertising and asked for a raise of £257,000 for the 1984-85 budget. "Without the extra money we will struggle just to stay still," he says.

A £100,000 once and for all grant made last year for cycling has already borne considerable fruits. The first stage of an international cycling race sponsored by Sealink in 1983 started in the Isle of Wight and received extensive television coverage. Another important race in the international cycling calendar is scheduled for June 1984.

Although the narrow and sometimes very hilly main roads can make for frustrating motorcycling (particularly if there is a ferry to catch) there are also 500 miles of footpaths, bridlepaths and unspoiled rights of way. These are used for walking, horseriding, flying kites and even hang gliding.

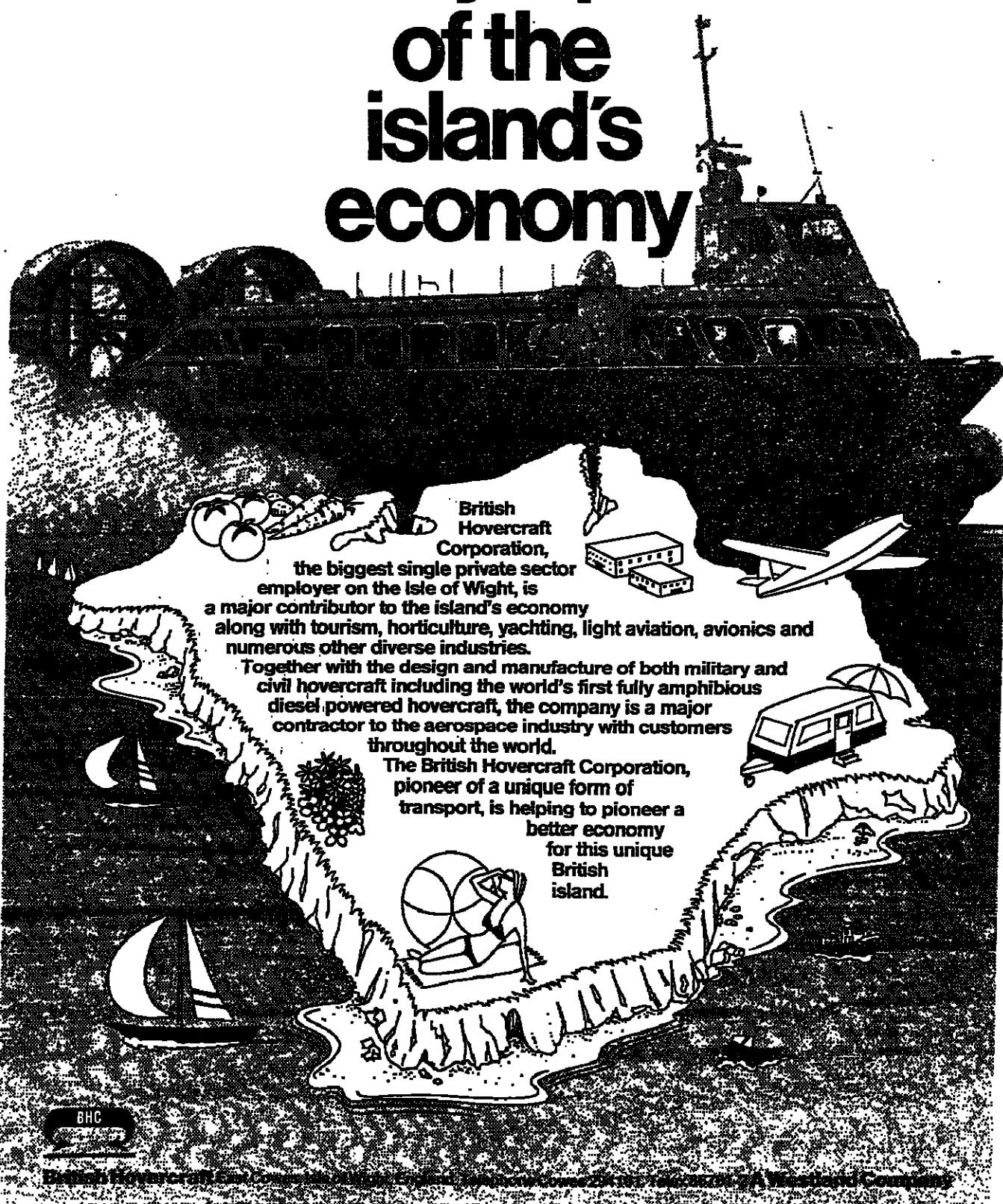
In order to encourage improving standards of amenities in order to meet new demands, the tourist board has introduced a "Seahorse" quality assessment scheme. Awards of one or more seahorse symbols are awarded to establishments by inspectors who consider quality, comfort and service in relationship to the type of business and the price it charges. The aim is to give first-time holidaymakers an objective yardstick against which to make their booking.

Although assessment has been discussed frequently in national tourist circles, the Isle of Wight board claims to be the first resort to put such a scheme

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BHC

a major part of the island's economy

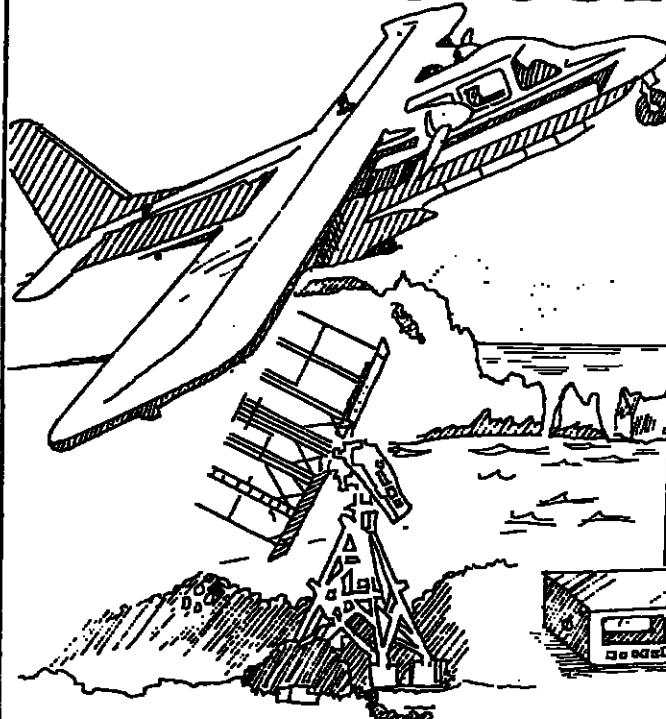


The British Hovercraft Corporation, the biggest single private sector employer on the Isle of Wight, is a major contributor to the island's economy along with tourism, horticulture, yachting, light aviation, avionics and numerous other diverse industries.

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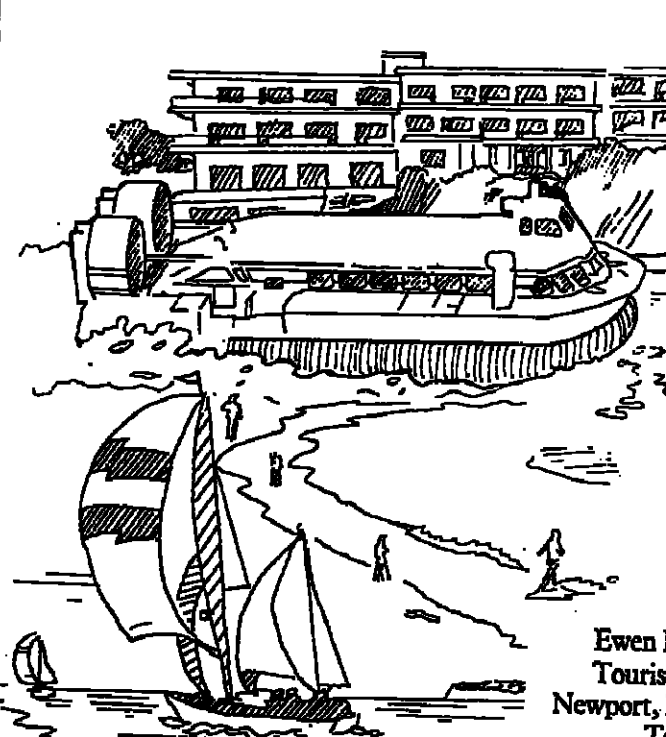
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Promotion/Industrial Development
Officer, at Isle of Wight County
Council, 6/7 Town Lane, Newport,
Isle of Wight.
Telephone (0983) 529120.

Dedication to tourism



Tourism has always been a major industry on the Isle of Wight. Every year, hundreds of thousands of holidaymakers choose the Island as their holiday resort abroad, but without language problems or travel difficulties. And a major advertising campaign each year helps make the 'friendly isle' even more popular.

There are plenty of opportunities for leisure companies and hotels to invest in the Island's tourist industry, with grants and financial assistance readily available, and the Island specialises in organising small select conferences.

Contact for holiday or investment information:
Ewen Breachley, Isle of Wight
Tourist Board, 21 High Street,
Newport, Isle of Wight PO30 1JS.
Telephone (0983) 524343.

Isle of Wight

Big business drops anchor at Cowes

A decision by Fairley Marine to concentrate all its boatbuilding activities at Cowes is one of a number of encouraging trends which has occurred in the Isle of Wight's manufacturing industry in the past 12 months.

Last spring, Fairley which is a subsidiary of the publicly quoted S. Pearson group combined the production of lifeboats at an existing yard at Cowes with that of a new acquisition, Cheverton Workboats. The company is now in the process of transferring the design and development of fast patrol boats from its original manufacturing base across the Solent at Hamble into a new site on the Medina river.

The availability of the new site was an important factor in Fairley's decision to concentrate all its production at Cowes. The site was left vacant as a result of the closure of an Elliott Turbomachinery engineering plant - one of a number of closures which has helped to boost unemployment totals to record levels of more than 16 per cent. However, John Blake, the chairman of Fairley Marine, saw the Elliott closure as an opportunity to consolidate all his company's manufacturing operations all under one roof.

The move will result in an investment of about £15m by the time the transfer from Hamble is completed later this year. It will also result in a workforce of about 300, making Fairley one of the largest private sector employers next to the British Hovercraft Corporation and Plessey Radar.

In the 1950s the island economy was ravaged by defence cuts. These resulted in the closure of the J. Samuel White naval shipbuilding business and Saunders-Roe military aircraft plant but left as a legacy a skilled workforce which later industrialists like Plessey Radar found as attractive as the development aid which was available at that time.

Plessey which currently employs about 1,200 people in producing radar installations, aircraft landing systems and other electronic equipment at a major manufacturing site at Cowes is an example of the type of high technology, high added value manufacturer which the authorities consider best suited to the IOW environment.

Another indicator which augurs well for an improvement on the island's overall economy is that having had to shed nearly 100 jobs during the 1981 recession, Plessey is now expanding. Three major new orders, including a £30m contract to manufacture a Nato strategic radar system, a new airfield surveillance radar for

Ministry of Defence airfields and a Royal Navy medium range radar contract were won last year.

These, together with a variety of new export contracts, have led to a new 16,000 sq ft office complex at the Cowes site which is due to be completed by July.

The outlook has also brightened for the British Hovercraft Corporation which with a workforce of 1,500 is the island's largest private sector employer. The company has high hopes of winning major new orders for its new generation of AP 188 hovercraft. Built with weldable marine alloys and powered by diesel engines instead of gas turbines these cost about a quarter of the earlier versions to construct while running costs are cut by about two thirds.

Already in operation on the Ryde to Southsea ferry route from the island, the first orders to go overseas are due to be delivered in May to Damp skibsselskabet Orsund (D. S. O) of Denmark. The two 88 seater AP 188's will operate a new 14 mile route between Kasirup International airport in Copenhagen and Malmö in Sweden.

The BHC also has hopes of winning a MOD minesweeping contract following a series of imaginative demonstrations at Portland last spring. A feasibility study subsequently commissioned by the Royal Navy has been completed and a decision is expected shortly. An order from the Navy is seen as an essential ingredient in persuading foreign customers, a number of which expressed keen interest during the demonstrations, to finalise purchases.

Aerospace activities under-



The peaceful setting of the harbour at West Cowes

taken at Cowes for Westland, the BHC parent company has also been active. Work started in January on a new £7m contract to supply fuel pods to Boeing Vertol. The order which follows an extensive sales campaign will utilise some of the very advanced methods of bonding developed by BHC as a result of extensive research and development work often at the forefront of technological exploration.

Penalties of living on an island in terms of transporting goods are even less of a factor for companies like Marex which specialises in measuring environmental data from locations as remote as Greenland or the China Sea than for the shipping or aerospace industries.

Marex which has built up a turnover of about £11m mainly from the very specialist knowledge of its 65 employees could

operate from pretty well anywhere and moved from working in Surrey in 1968 after considering a variety of alternatives.

It was already based at Cowes when Alan Ainslie, the present managing director joined the company but he would be reluctant to move it back to the mainland.

Mr Ainslie's experience has been that pleasant working and living conditions well away from metropolitan pressures have proved a positive advantage in attracting key staff.

The commercial life of the area is centred on the two largest towns of Newport, which is the administrative centre and Ryde which is about eight miles away and a "gateway" for passengers and a "gatekeeper" for the other Island towns. Unlike the big manufacturers, the large store groups have prospered in recent years. Boots and Woolworth's have expanded their

premises at both Ryde and at Newport while International Stores.

The Tesco hypermarket, which sells much more than just groceries, sparked a petrol price war last year when it opened its own filling station. Prices dropped by up to 15p a gallon in a single week after the opening of the Tesco pumps last March and remain at below typical mainland prices - a very welcome development to the owners of old, thirsty vehicles.

Encouragement to the community generally has been recent confirmation by Marks & Spencer after years of speculation that they too are planning to come to the Isle of Wight.

M&S's business acumen is well respected. Their decision to invest is considered as an offsetting factor against fears that the commercial sector may be next in line for an economic holocaust.

Wight, Mr Wise had looked at sites in North England and in Wales. Despite niceties - like a faulty telephone - he has not subsequently revised his initial impression that the IOW was the best choice - mainly because of an unusually positive attitude both to small companies and to work in general.

"The staff are the best I've ever had", he says. "The Solent is merely a management problem - I can get goods to London by the next day and I and my family feel more comfortable after four months of living here than after 13 years of living in London."

A town for Alice

Queen Victoria's decision to make Osborne House her rustic retreat has had a profound effect on the Isle of Wight. Statesmen, courtiers, writers and relatives of the royal couple and their nine children flocked to follow their example. In their wake came the merchants and property developers who have helped to create an Edwardian seaside paradise of wrought iron, bandstands and comfortable villas.

Alfred Lord Tennyson, the poet laureate, was one of the first of many distinguished visitors to fall in love with the "bowery hollow crowned with summer sea". He moved to Farringford in 1853 five years after Osborne House was completed and lived there for nearly half a century.

Other notable literary visitors

included Charles Dickens, resting from his labours on *David Copperfield*, Thomas Macaulay, working on Volume III of his *History of England* and the Rev. C. L. Dodgson, alias Lewis Carroll, who may have found his original *Alice* in neighbouring lodgings at Sandown. The poet Swinburne is buried at Bonchurch while Keats "discovered" Shanklin Chine - still one of the most popular of beauty spots - as early as 1817.

But the Latin memory also lives on with the popularity of the description "Tartus" used by 35 local organisations including the local bus company since Vectis was the word the Romans used for the Island.

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Enterprise and smugglers' tales

provision of premises at subsidised rent and rates. To help coordinate assistance, an Enterprise Agency backed by more than 20 organisations including Shell and Lloyds Bank as well as local firms such as Island Builders or Vectis Stone and the Medina Borough Council started operations in 1982.

Ron Neve, the agency's director (who is also the County Employment promotion officer) explains that in its first year the agency has been involved in wider activities than just helping new businesses to start up. There have been rescues of ailing firms, revivals of business which had already been closed and "work gathering", i.e. bringing in new orders to island firms, and helping established small businesses to realize their potential.

One of the most spectacular recent examples of local industry development has been that of Brian Stillwell's NFI (Nameplates for Industry) company. Mr Stillwell, the 46-year-old founder, moved his company which printed business nameplates in plastics from Addlestone in Surrey to Newport IOW in 1968. The company prospered but did not hit the very rapid growth it is experiencing at present until 10 years later when it was introduced to the new electronic technology which enables switch controls to be touched rather than pressed.

In order to supply the new market NFI gained the cooperation from its existing workforce, immediate access to new skills and local authority help to extend its factory.

Since 1979 Mr Stillwell's business which won an Industrial Innovation Award for its

part in the development of the Sinclair ZX81 personal computer, has expanded to a fourth factory.

Its turnover is around £3m and it employs 120 people.

Transport has, however, proved a problem for an entrepreneur engaged in a more traditional type of business. Mr Edward Minghella, who has been exporting 54 varieties of award winning "real" ice cream from Ryde to markets such as Harrods, Fortnum & Mason and Selfridges for over 30 years, estimates that carriage off the island adds an additional 12 per cent to his costs.

Mr Minghella, who came to the island in 1950 as a newly married ex-serviceman and invested his demob money in a plant to convert local dairy products into ice-cream, is a leading local protagonist for a bridge or tunnel link with the mainland.

But even if the campaign for a permanent link fails, Mr Minghella would not consider ever moving his business to the mainland. Rather, he too is in the process of expansion with plans for a new purpose-built plant to double his output by the end of 1984.

One of the characteristics of new generation entrepreneurs generally is an interest in co-operation. The possibilities for mutual aid through a newly formed small firms association influenced Sam Wise to set up his Technical Projects company in the Isle of Wight last September. A break-away from a London based theatre supplier, Technical Projects produces audio and intercom equipment for the entertainment industry.

Before opting for the Isle of

Happy holidaymakers

continued from facing page into practice. So far 189 establishments have requested and been granted assessments the results of which they can then use in their advertisements.

A great deal has also been achieved independently to take account of recent changes in the holiday business. A marked trend is for holidaymakers generally to spend less time on English beaches, and new attractions have opened up to cater for increased mobility and a thirst for knowledge.

In the Isle of Wight there has been greater development in this respect than elsewhere. Whereas in 1971 there were only 13 places of interest listed in the tourist board's brochure the 1984 version carries details of nearly 70 most of which have been created and promoted out of private investment.

However, by far the biggest attraction is the oldest. Blackgang Chine which opened in 1845 with the skeleton of a whale through which visitors could walk as a curiosity attracts more than 750,000 people compared with less than 200,000 brought in by Osborne House. One reason for this is its very long season and the fact that it is floodlit in the evening from late May to late September.

Another is the astonishing variety of gnomes, monsters, distorting mirrors and amusements cunningly displayed in nearly 30 acres of coastal cliff-top scenery.

Despite the success of Blackgang there were plenty of sceptics who doubted whether the inland Robin Hill country park another privately owned venture would survive when it opened a century and a quarter later. The proprietors themselves estimated in 1972 on attracting 10,000 visitors a year. In fact the open-air zoo and commando-styled adventure playground was attended by over 200,000 people last year making it the second most popular attraction.

There are equally plenty of sceptics about major new all-weather proposals at present under consideration. One is an indoor sun and fun centre proposed for the beach at Shanklin. A second scheme would involve enclosing part of the promenade area, waterfall and tropical gardens at the base of the cliffs at Ventnor while a third would result in a new hotel and entertainment complex being created at Cowes to serve the business community as well as yachting patrons. No doubt they too will be proved wrong.



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FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Why gilt-edged brokers are being tarnished

The manner and timing of the Stock Exchange Council's decision to cut brokers' commissions on large gilt-edged deals has set a messy precedent for the more fundamental issues to be settled in the next 18 months.

On Tuesday the Council voted to cut gilt commissions by between 10 per cent and 20 per cent, with effect from April 9. Trading in government stocks is the lifeblood of the Stock Exchange, accounting for some 85 per cent of turnover. While equity dealing takes the lion's share of the headlines, it is dwarfed by the massive volumes of the gilt-edged market. In that light, it was bold to the point of self-flagellating altruism to cut gilt commissions as an interim step toward freely negotiated commissions which is the ultimate objective, to be reached possibly by the end of next year. Some broking firms are being called on to suffer relatively more than others, because they are more heavily dependent on gilt-edged business.

This has of course always happened whenever the Stock Exchange has altered its charges. The effects do not fall evenly. However, as the market comes closer to the day of completely free bargaining and the end of the rigid distinction between broker and jobber, the stakes are driven inexorably higher.

Some gilt brokers pointed out yesterday that they are being ordered to cut their income at precisely the time when they ought to be fattening their reserves to be able to compete as market makers with international financial giants like Merrill Lynch and Nomura Securities. The capital backing needed for a pure broking or agency operation is much more modest.

The timing of commission cuts hits gilt brokers in another way. Many Stock Exchange firms are quietly talking with banks and other outsiders who want access to the market and can offer big capital injections. The brokers' bargaining position is bound to be undermined if their main source of revenue is publicly shrunken. Gilt commissions always were vulnerable, but it is wise to diminish the brokers' dowry at a stroke?

Putting the societies' house in order

The final proposals from the Building Societies Association on the legislative changes it wants to enable societies to broaden their activities raise important questions about the future regulation of the industry. They should figure prominently in the forthcoming Government green paper on building society legislation which is the next stage on the long and dusty road leading to a new Building Society Act. The BSA's report is much more sharply focused than its first discussion document. Where contentious, as in the proposal that building societies should be allowed to engage in insurance broking and possibly insurance underwriting, it is also much more realistic. The BSA recognizes that societies would have to accept prudential and regulatory requirements this kind of diversification would entail. As for setting up separate subsidiaries to carry on business in novel areas, there is also now a clear recognition that societies would have to be able to stand fully behind them in the event of their running into financial trouble.

The diversification of building societies into non-traditional activities raises the possibility that they will find different

parts of their business regulated by different bodies. Insurance is one case in point, banking is another. Although the association is proposing that retail banking activities such as unsecured lending and cheque and credit card facilities should be carried out as part of their mainstream business, they are not ruling out the possibility of setting up licensed deposit-taking subsidiaries which would come directly under the eye of the Bank of England.

The Government will need to consider thoroughly the division of supervisory responsibilities between the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies and other regulatory agencies which building society diversification may involve. The Registry of Friendly Societies itself, as constituted probably lacks the resources to cope with much more work.

Until now supervision of building societies and their £86 billion of assets has moved in the direction of the flexible, discretionary approach adopted by the Bank of England toward banks. This may explain the suggestion that the Chief Registrar should be brought within the Bank of England's orbit.

By Philip Robinson

Trustees of Reuters will be given the power to prevent a full takeover or any significant share-building when the news agency and business information group goes public in May.

The 10 trustees will be increased to a maximum of 14 and they will monitor the Reuters shareholders' register through a new Founders Share Company which will have an asset, a single share in Reuters which will carry more votes than the rest of the equity. Mr Geoffrey Upton, deputy chairman of the trustees, said yesterday that the Founders Share Company would exercise its effective veto if any one trustee thought that the Reuters' integrity and independence was threatened.

A takeover attempt after Reuters' shares are floated on the Stock Exchange or if the accumulation group of more than 15 per cent of either of the two classes of voting shares would be construed as threatening Reuters' independence. In a "bell and braces" approach to maintain its integrity, Reuters has decided to have the additional protection of a split equity. "A" shares will carry four votes each and account for a quarter of the issued capital and "B" shares will carry one vote each and account for 75 per cent. Only the "B" shares will be sold to the public.

Present Trustees of Reuters

Mr Angus McLachlan (New Zealand News: acting chairman)
Mr Geoffrey Upton (Courier Press, Leamington)
Mr Stanley Clarke (Thomson Regional)
Mr David Cole (Daily Telegraph)
Lord Hartwell (Newspaper Publishers Association)
Mr John LePage (United Newspapers)
Mr Gordon Linacre (Fleet Holdings)
Lord Matthews (Associated Newspapers)
Lord Rothmans (Daily Mail & General Trust)
Mr John Wainwright

The "A" shares will be held entirely by the newspaper associations which represent the newspaper owners of Reuters on three continents.

Mr Glen Renfrew, Reuters managing director, said: "The newspaper associations decided that the creation of these shares would be an added safeguard to prevent any one self-interest group undermining the principles of editorial integrity and independence."

The split equity will not please the big pension funds and insurance companies whose cooperation is needed to make a success of the issue.

Mr Henry James, director-general of the National Association of Pension Funds, said last night: "We are disappointed that Reuters have chosen to create two classes of shares. It was always our position that the Founders shares or an equivalent was acceptable, but selling shares to the public which command less votes than others

which are non-traded goes against our philosophy and we will be informing our members along those lines."

The financial institutions' aversion to shares carrying different rights stems from the belief that, should a company's decision or trading seriously deteriorate, those responsible within the company should not be able to outvote shareholders who have put in most of the capital.

The fear that the institutions will refuse to underwrite the issue sent Reuters' merchant bankers, S. G. Warburg and N. M. Rothschild to America two weeks ago looking for potential underwriters.

The New York investment houses Merrill Lynch and Morgan Stanley are poised to underwrite the issue. As a result, the issue may be reduced in size. Those who have predicted that Reuters is worth £1.5 billion may now be looking at an issue which values the

news agency at less than £1 billion.

Mr Renfrew added: "We will try to persuade the institutions that the additional safeguard will not detract from our ability to make profits."

Reuters' pretax profits have risen from £3.1m to £33m since 1978 and are expected to have been between £50m and £60m last year.

Last September Reuters announced it was paying an interim dividend of £40 per £1 share. It paid a final dividend of £60 per share in 1982 compared with £20 the previous year.

The agency's new wealth comes from the development in the 1970's of electronically transmitted business information.

This altered the Fleet Street press barons to the fortunes which could be realized by floating the agency on the stock market.

The main beneficiaries of Reuters as a public company will be Associated Newspapers, publishers of the *Daily Mail* and *Mail on Sunday* with 12.2 per cent; Fleet Holdings, owners of the *Daily Express*, *Sunday Express* and *Daily Star* with 12.1 per cent and News International, publishers of *The Times*, *The Sunday Times*, *The Sun* and *The New of the World* with 9 per cent.

Reed International, owners of the *Daily Mirror* and five other national newspapers, has 7.9 per cent.

Pressure on UK as Bonn aids Airbus

By Our Industrial Correspondent

A British Government decision on provision of aid for the next European airline venture, the Airbus A320, became more pressing yesterday after the West German Cabinet approved DM 1,500m (£470m) of assistance for the project.

British Aerospace has a 20 per cent stake in the Airbus Industries consortium and has asked the Government for up to £437m of launch aid.

Scepticism about the 150-seat A320 aircraft has come mainly from the British and German partners, with the French backing the development from the start.

The German decision to provide interest-free aid intensifies the pressure on the British Government. The Airbus partners have expressed concern at the possible lack of British involvement, but it has become clear that other western nations are lining up to take part should Britain pull out.

An announcement from Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, is expected very soon. It is believed that the decision has been delayed because of ministers' insistence that BAE, which is already putting up £200m from its own resources for the project, should raise more from private sources.

Mr Tebbit has been appointed by the Government to advise on how a package of City funds can be put together to finance part of the British share of the A320.



Smiling in the rain: The Queen with Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton, Governor of the Bank of England.

A right Royal celebration for the Bank of England

By Sarah Hogg, Economics Editor

The Bank of England yesterday celebrated 250 years of operations on its Threadneedle Street site by playing host to the Queen. But it was business as usual for the deputy governor, Mr Christopher McMahon, who gave a speech to the Birmingham and Midlands Institute of Bankers last night on the need for an increase in industrial investment to sustain economic recovery.

Mr McMahon, who under the governorship of Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton, has been able to stretch his wings in reflective speeches on economic issues, gave several warnings about present levels of investment. Pointing to improvements in productivity and profits, he said that the key question was whether these developments could be sustained. "Can the British economy enter a virtuous circle of higher profits, increased investment and sustained expansion? Or will increased company liquidity give rise to a vicious circle of unwarranted pay increases and other failures to control costs;

higher inflation leading to tighter government policies; and a return to recession?" Mr McMahon said it was arguable that "current levels of investment are insufficient to support sustained expansion of the supply side of the economy." He said that net investment in manufacturing has been negative, that is, insufficient to cover depreciation, for the past three years.

Productivity improvements so far, Mr McMahon said, "have probably been achieved largely by discarding high cost plant, shedding labour and improving working practices in existing plants." Looking ahead, however, "sustained productivity gains from the new smaller and more efficient industrial base are likely to require higher levels of investment."

Although investment intention surveys pointed to some growth, Mr McMahon said "company spending plans are unlikely to have much impact on the substantial cushion of liquidity that has been built up over the last year or so."

Battle for China deal

By John Lawless

Mr Paul Channon, the Minister for Trade, arrives in Peking today to discuss Britain's bid to supply equipment for a nuclear power station, which China is to build in Guangdong province.

He is to give details of a Government-backed financial package, which will largely determine whether more than £700m worth of power plant equipment business comes to Britain.

GEC is, at present, the sole bidder to supply turbines and generators worth more than £3 billion in total, with Framatome, of France the only company negotiating to supply two 900 MW pressurized water reactors.

Industry analysts forecast

that orders for power plant equipment worldwide will be running at 60 per cent of their level of the past few years.

The contract, if awarded to GEC, would be Britain's biggest export order so far.

The present export record is held by GEC, for the £500m Castle Peak power station contract three years ago in Hongkong. The first stage is on schedule, and the second is about six months ahead.

China has indicated that it may build a second nuclear plant, at Daya Bay, near Hongkong. But GEC negotiators have been instructed to concentrate on winning the first contract.

Dollar drops

A wave of profit-taking left the dollar sharply lower in the foreign exchange markets yesterday and sterling also lost ground against European currencies although it closed 70 points higher at 1.5110 against the dollar.

After a short-lived rally the previous day caused by concern over the Middle East and the possibility of higher US interest rates, the dollar fell as low as DM 2.6550 at one point in nervous, active trading. But it recovered slightly before the London close to finish the day down 3.98 pence at DM 2.6627 and well down against most other leading currencies.

Yesterday's setback for the US currency helped reinforce the view that the dollar, which has fallen nearly 18 pence since its January peak, is set for further long-term decline.

Although sterling closed firmer against the US currency, it showed sizable falls against other currencies and its trade-weighted value slipped 0.3 to 82.4 yesterday.

In stock market yesterday shares eased with the FT 100 share index off 2.9 at 816.4. The Stock Exchange index of 100 leading shares fell 1.4 to 1043.0.

Market report, page 20

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index: 816.4 down 2.9
FT 100: 82.58 down 0.02
FT All Share: 494.02 down 0.28
Borصات: 18.687
Datastream USH Leaders Index: 108.85 down 0.11
New York Dow Jones Average (latest): 1,137.25 down 2.02
Tokyo Nikkei Dow Jones Index: 9,947.7 down 22.93
Hongkong Hang Sen Index: 1,047.22 down 19.69
Amsterdam: 166.1 down 2.7
Sydney: AO Index 745.2 down 0.5
Frankfurt Commerzbank Index: 1024.0 down 12.8
Brussels General Index: 141.18 up 0.15
Paris CAC Index: 161.1 down 0.6
Zurich SKA General: 305.7 down 2.40

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE

Sterling \$1.4510 up 70pts
Index 82.4 down 0.3
DM 3.8575 down 0.0575
FrF 11.9150 down 0.1550
Yen 338.50 down 0.50
Dollar Index 123.1 up 1.1
DM 2.6627 down 0.0599

NEW YORK LATEST
Sterling \$1.4540
Dollar DM 2.6555
INTERNATIONAL
ECU £0.578431
SDR £0.725616

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rate 9%
Finance houses base rate 9%
Discount market loans w.e. fixed 9% - 9%
3 month interbank 9% - 9%
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 9% - 10%
3 month DM 5% - 5%
3 month FrF 15% - 15%
US rates:
Bank prime rate 11.00
Fed funds 9%
Treasury long bond 9%
9%
ECGP Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV. Average reference rate for interest from January 4, 1984 to February 7, 1984 inclusive: 9.493 per cent.

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
am \$392.00 pm \$395.25
close \$394.50 - \$395.00
(£271.50 - £272.00)
New York (latest): \$395.50
Kruggerand (per coin): \$408.50-408 (250-261)
Sovereigns (new): \$52.95 (£63.25-£64.00)
Excludes VAT

NEWS IN BRIEF

Last words as Hanson bid closes

A flurry of circulars went to London Brick shareholders yesterday, ahead of Tuesday's final closing date for the £247m takeover bid from Hanson Trust.

A full-colour defence document from London Brick urged shareholders to "dismiss this bid", claiming the company's super flotation brick was "probably the most exciting advance in British brick-making this century".

But Lord Hanson, in a separate circular, claimed his company offered greater profit potential for London Brick shareholders.

The British steel Corporation yesterday announced a £18m investment for its Lackenby heavy beam mill on Teesside, and at the same time announced the closure of its Cargo Fleet section mill. The 400 workers are being offered alternative jobs.

Yorkshire Bank, the profitable regional bank owned by four of the London Brick shareholders, is raising £75m with a 10-year sterling floating rate note issue managed by County Bank. The aim is to secure longer-term finance to fund existing business.

Draft plans to tighten tax rules covering roll up and other offshore funds are to be changed, to make it easier for some types of fund to qualify for exemption, the Treasury announced yesterday.

Imperial Group's Howard Johnson motels and restaurants subsidiary is branching out into the mid-price hotels market, operating a chain across the US in town centre, suburban and airport locations. It was announced yesterday.

Vantona stalks F Miller

Vantona Vivella, the textile company run by Mr David Alliance, was yesterday sounding out institutional shareholders in F Miller (Textiles), the small Scottish Marks and Spencer clothing supplier.

Vantona is expected to bid for F Miller after last week's failure of an £11m bid from Nottingham Manufacturing.

But a consortium of four industrialists represented by Robert Fleming, the Merchant bank, has also asked shareholders to put them on the board.

Liffe quadruples fee

By Michael Prest

Inactive or loss-incurring members of the London International Financial Futures Exchange could find themselves squeezed out this year by the exchange's decision yesterday to raise the members' annual subscription fee from £1,250 to £5,000.

The increase, which will be smaller for members who use their seats for active trading, has been partly designed to cut Liffe's operating deficit. The exchange has also agreed with the International Commodities Clearing House, which clears

Liffe contracts, to a fairer split of the transaction fee charged for each lot traded.

But Liffe believes that it can arrange the raising and clearing of contracts more cheaply, and talks are progress with the ICCF. The idea is to increase the amount received by Liffe. Members of Liffe believe that the ICCF has been paid too much for its clearing services.

The ICCF will charge 25p a lot for each side of the transaction, under the new arrangements, due to come into force on April 1.

Humberside emerging as front runner

Nissan plant countdown begins

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

A six-man study team from Nissan of Japan began a final appraisal of sites for the company's £50m British car assembly factory and up to 500 jobs with a visit to North Wales.

The company has looked at eight sites but favourite locations are widely assumed to be North and South Wales and Humberside, with the latter emerging as front runner.

Yesterday's visit to North Wales, with Cwyd County Council acting as hosts, marks the start of a delicate decision-making process, with an announcement promised by the end of March. The company has been careful not to state a preference for fear of boosting land prices.

Nissan wants 800 acres in an assisted area for the factory which, in its expected second phase, will involve a total investment of £350m and more than £100m of government aid.

The Nissan team, led by Mr E Kosi, a general manager and



Norman Lamont: Votes of confidence in Britain

Cheshire County Council, all of whom are ready to sell. Cwyd officials were also tending the expense of the large pool of skilled labour in the area, which has a good industrial relations record.

Today the Japanese visit Humberside, where the favoured site is North Killingholme airfield near the port of Immingham, and Sunderland Airport in Tyne and Wear.

Mr Norman Lamont, the Minister of State for Industry, claimed yesterday that Nissan's decision to invest in Britain was "an historic turning point" - a remarkable vote of confidence in Britain and Britain's prospects.

Mr Lamont, who has faced criticism over Nissan's lack of formal commitment to the second phase of the project which could lead to another 2,000 jobs - said it was "up to British industry and labour to demonstrate, as we are confident they will, that full-scale manufacture in the UK makes economic sense for the company."

Lawson's balancing act on wine and beer duty may be spread over two years

How quickly must a national government respond to a judgment by the European Court of Justice?

The answer to that question is being pondered deeply at the Treasury. The present pattern of excise duties on alcoholic drinks is at stake, with possible effects on other duties such as that on tobacco.

The court has ruled that Britain must redistribute excise duties between beer and wine.

The burden on wine would have to be eased, although there are various options for achieving this. If Britain does not conform, it could find itself arraigned before the court again, with the Italian wine makers the most likely to start action.

But the court did not specify what Britain should do to achieve a more equitable sharing of the tax burden. Nor did it lay down a timetable.

So Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor, has to decide how far it is necessary to go in removing the anomaly and whether it should be removed at once or over, say, two Budgets.

The conundrum has to be cracked in time for the Budget on March 13. It could mean the Chancellor adding 2p to a pint of beer but lopping 20p off a bottle of wine if he decided to remove the anomaly in one operation.



Derek Harris looks at prospects in the drink market

Another option would be to leave wine duties as they are while adding 7p in tax to a pint of beer (6p duty and 1p VAT).

The prospect is causing anxiety among the brewers whose sales are already in the doldrums. The Wine and Spirit Association, while pleased at the prospect of a fresh boost to wine sales, is worried about repercussions for fortified wines such as ports, vermouths and sherry as well as spirits.

The association's message to the Chancellor is that his priority should be "damage limitation" to drinks other than table wine.

The Chancellor has to weigh the effects of introducing distortions into the drinks sector. It would inevitably change the pattern of revenues to the Treasury, possibly for the worse. Pushing up beer prices has a big impact on the Retail Price Index, always a politically sensitive point.

If he looks for more excise revenue by a disproportionate rise in tobacco taxes, cigarette sales would slump within weeks of BAT's announcement of massive cuts in the British market with the loss of more than 1,800 jobs.

That route could mean a drop in tobacco revenues as well as threatening more jobs. Would he then contemplate a rise in VAT? The consumer boom shows no signs of weakening and is massively fed by credit.

The case for spreading the changes to the beer-wine tax ratio over two Budgets is strong. Britain has already moved some way in the last three Budgets towards a more equal taxation treatment.

At one time there was a ratio of just under 5-10-1 in favour of beer on the basis of volume and this has now shrunk to just over 4-10-1.

Some of the more bellicose in

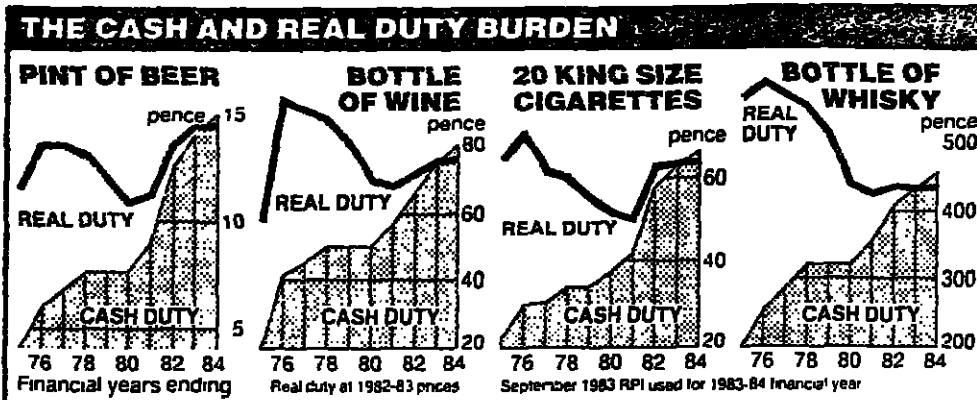
the wine lobbies have been campaigning for a ratio of 2.8-10-1 to reflect comparisons of alcohol content. But a more balanced view is that a 3-10-1 ratio is probably enough to satisfy the court ruling.

This is the basis of the calculation for adding 2p to a pint of beer and cutting wine by 20p a bottle. Spreading that over two years simply means a 1p a pint increase with a 10p wine reduction and the Brewers' Society, as might be expected, is urging only a 1p increase.

That would also have the effect of indexing beer duties for inflation since the last Budget. Indexation would also add 5p to a bottle of wine, 28p to a bottle of spirits and 3.5p to a packet of 20 cigarettes.

There is talk in the trade of the concept of elasticities within each drinks market. Beer production last year, for instance, was marginally up on 1982 by 0.9 per cent. Some brewers are discerning an improving sales trend, if only by a small margin.

There is, however, growing pressure from pubs and clubs to add 1p a pint at the counter to give an improved retail margin. Some big brewers may add another 1p for themselves, particularly in the South of England.



So to a trade increase of 2p the Chancellor might add another 2p. That, brewers argue, would save sales and the Treasury would lose revenue.

If the Treasury lost substantial revenues from a plunge in sales, the elasticity of the beer market would have been stretched too far, it is argued.

It is argued that an expected rise in wine sales would replace little of that lost beer duty revenue because the wine market is much smaller.

The trade does not believe that there will be much direct effect on beer drinkers switching to wine. More wine is likely to be sold at

the expense of fortified wines and spirits.

Scotch manufacturers are likely to raise prices by 15p to 20p a bottle before the Budget. But it looks as if sales in Britain of Scotch have largely recovered since a year ago, when releases from bond were down by more than a fifth. In the last 10 years whisky duty has fallen markedly in real terms in contrast to the treatment of other dutiable goods.

Everything would seem to point to the Chancellor adding at least 30p to a bottle of Scotch and other spirits. However, there is the problem of how far the spirits market will be able to withstand an overall retail increase of about

50p when wine will look so much cheaper.

There is another snare awaiting Mr Lawson. According to Wyman-Harris Research, which samples 2,000 pubs and clubs for its licensed trade monitor, beer prices at the counter have risen 99 per cent in the five years to the end of 1983. The Budget will furnish the ammunition for a cry that in five years beer prices have more than doubled.

As Wyman-Harris underlines, the brewers have made their margins in protection of brewers' bottom line profits. But that is the sort of point easily forgotten when populists are shouting.

Valor bids £6m for Dreamland

By Jonathan Clare
Valor, the cooker and gas appliance makers bid almost £6m yesterday for Dreamland Electrical Appliances, in which it recently bought a 29.9 per cent stake.

The bid is not agreed with the Dreamland board which is under strength after the resignation of two directors who represented Grovewood's interests until it sold its 29.9 per cent stake last month.

The board yesterday said it was still examining the terms of the offer.

Mr Micheal Montague, Valor's chairman, said it had always been his aim to build up an electrical arm for Valor alongside its traditional gas equipment range. It already makes split level electric cookers and electric fires.

Valor is offering 25p in cash, the price at which it bought a 25 per cent stake from Grovewood or Valor shares worth about 27p for every one in Dreamland. If Valor issued all new shares for Dreamland it would increase the share capital by about 18 per cent.

Mr Montague, who is also chairman of the English Tourist Board, has forecast that Valor will make profits of £3.75m against £2.65m in the year which next month. The final dividend will be raised to give a total payment for the year of 4p against last year's 3.45p.

Commercial Property is on page 22

Marchwiel builds profits to £19.5m

Construction activity is unlikely to show any upturn this year the civil engineering group Marchwiel said yesterday, announcing a rise in pretax profits for the year to the end of October from £15.9m to £19.5m.

But the chairman believes the company will hold its position and that overall results this year will show a further advance. A final dividend of 6p is promised, lifting the total for the year from 7.5p to 9p.

Last year's results were enhanced by a change in accounting practice which increased 1983 profits by £1.4m and the comparable figure for 1982 by £2.2m. There was also first-time contribution from the Finlas Group.

In brief

● **Throgmorton** Secured Growth Trust has announced an interim dividend of 1p (0.6125p) for the six months to January 31 last to reduce disparity. The board expects that last year's total dividend of 2.7875p per share will at least be maintained this year. Gross income totalled £393,000 (£373,000) with pretax profit at £200,000 (£180,000).

● **Mitel Telecom**, the Canadian-based corporation has signed a contract from British Telecom valued at a minimum of £25m for the supply of telecommunications equipment. The contract, covering Regent and other Merlin call-connect systems, as well as the new TX-14 feature telephone, extends until the end of March, 1985. The products will be manufactured and supplied to British Telecom from the company's facility in Caldicot, Gwent.

● **Costain Group** has acquired Burnham Engineering Services from the Burnham Group. Burnham Engineering comprises petrocarbon developments including the telecommunications division and food projects division.

● **Hollis Bros** yesterday completed the acquisition of Metalliform. The Pergamon Press holding of Hollis ordinary capital remains at 51,535,165 shares (82.14 per cent of the enlarged capital).

● **Shaw & Marvin** has reported a turnover of £229,699 (£741,751) for the six months to September 30 last. Trading loss was down to £62,366 from £161,656. Pretax loss was reduced to £62,366 from £211,355. The company's rationalization programme continued throughout the six months.

● **Eleco Holdings** has announced pretax profits of £761,000 for the half-year to December 31 last, a rise of 18 per cent on the corresponding period last year. Turnover rose by 19 per cent to £10.6m and order books at the end of the period were considerably better than a year ago. An interim dividend of 1p per share is now proposed which is equivalent to a 10 per cent increase allowing for the recent scrip issue.

● **International Signal & Control**, the company's subsidiary, the Marquardt Company, has received another B-1B aircraft contract increase, bringing the total to \$28m (£19m). An order of \$17.6m was awarded by Vought Aerospace Corporation for 36 stabilizer support fittings for the B-1B aircraft.

● **Charter Consolidated**: Agreement in principle has been reached for the acquisition by RTZ Metals of the entire issued share capital of Delabole from Timebay. Timebay's issued share capital is 60 per cent owned by Charter and 40 per cent by Copper Pass, a wholly-owned subsidiary of RTZ Metals. The unaudited net asset value of Delabole on December 31 was £180,000.

● **Anglo-International Investment Trust**: Final dividend was 4p, a total of 6.5p for 1983. Pretax earnings were £581,873 (£553,362), tax was £208,373 (£198,349), transfer from contingency reserve was £165,000.

APPOINTMENTS

Reshuffle at Touche

Touche Ross & Co: Sir Douglas Morpeth is to retire from the company in April 1985. In anticipation of this and on reaching the age of 60 he is retiring as chairman of the board of partners. Mr D. R. P. Baker, managing partner, has been elected to succeed Sir Douglas as chairman and Mr M. J. Blackburn will replace Mr Baker as managing director.

Lloyds Bank: The following appointments will take effect on August 1. Mr Michael Thompson is to become deputy chief general manager, succeeding Mr Fred Crawley. Mr Crawley will become chief general manager on the retirement of Mr John Davis on July 31. Mr Thompson will be succeeded as assistant chief general manager by Mr Terry Cullum, at present general manager, personnel division. Mr Gerald Clarke, joint general manager for London, will take over as general manager, personnel. He will be succeeded by Mr Gerry Solomon, an assistant general manager.

Harveys of Bristol: Mr David Jarvis has been made finance director. Mr Jarvis will succeed Mr Roy Blake in this position on March 5. Mr Blake remains a director of Harveys.

R. P. Martin: Mr David M. L. McWilliam is to join the company on March 1 as managing director. Mr Peter M. Endres, formerly managing director, has been made executive deputy chairman.

Datastream: Mr Richard J. Beaver Stein, finance director of BOC, has become a director of the company. Mr D. W. N. Pitts has resigned as a director.

Courtauld Hosiery: Mr Jack Price has been appointed chairman and Mr Keith White deputy chairman.

Enterprise Oil: Dr Myles Bowen is to be the company's exploration director.

Iron and Steel Economic Development Committee: Mr H. G. De Ville, executive deputy chairman of BICC, is to be chairman of the committee.

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	9%
Barclays	9%
BCCI	9%
Clubbank Savings	10 1/4%
Consolidated City	9%
Continental Trust	9%
C. Hoare & Co	9%
Lloyds Bank	9%
Midland Bank	9%
Nat Westminster	9%
TSB	9%
Williams & Glyn's	9%

† **Major Bank Rates**
• 1 year deposits: 10% to 11%
• 3 month deposits: 9% to 10%
• 6 month deposits: 9% to 10%
• 12 month deposits: 9% to 10%

This advertisement is published by London Brick PLC, whose directors (including those who have delegated detailed supervision of this advertisement) have taken all reasonable care to ensure that the facts stated and opinions expressed herein are fair and accurate and each of the directors accepts responsibility accordingly.

DISMISS THIS BID!

KEEP THE BRICK INDUSTRY INDEPENDENT AND REAP THE REWARDS WITH LONDON BRICK.

Profits, Earnings and Dividends are all growing.

Our brick business has outstripped Hanson's.

Our prospects are outstanding.

Stay loyal to London Brick and benefit from our growth.

Do NOT sign and do NOT post any Hanson acceptance form.

LONDON BRICK

FIRED FOR GROWTH!

Commercial Property

10% rise forecast in top City rents

Rents for the best office accommodation in prime locations in the City of London could increase this year by 10 per cent to £34 a square foot, say chartered surveyors.

Richard Ellis, predict in their latest review of the market. Last year top rents in the City remained at about £30 a square foot for much of the time, but recently began to edge upwards and ended the year at £31 a square foot. Few deals were agreed at this level, although in one or two isolated transactions, including Atlas House, Chancery, Gresham College and 44 Bishopsgate, about £32 a square foot was achieved.

While a 10 per cent increase is forecast for the top rents, average growth is predicted at between 5 per cent and 10 per cent for the coming year.

Richard Ellis base their prediction on the belief that there is increasing demand for high quality office buildings and the fact that the market is becoming more balanced as less new building becomes available.

They believe there will be a more sustained level of letting activity in the City as a result of a continuing demand from the banking sector.

Some 3m sq ft of office space is likely to be taken up in 1984, compared with 2.8m sq ft in 1983, but the acute lack of high standard buildings available in the City's central area is forcing financial tenants to look elsewhere.

"This factor is increasing letting prospects for high quality buildings in more peripheral City areas, and resulting in the overall liveliness in the letting market", the firm say.

Richard Ellis forecast that 3.25m sq ft of office accommo-

dation will become available in 1984, of which nearly 1m sq ft will be in new developments and refurbishments. This figure contrasts with a total of 3.6m sq ft of supply in 1983.

The last quarter of 1983 saw substantially less space becoming available and the emergence of a far more balanced market, with less than 1m sq ft (24 per cent of the total) available in the heart of the City.

Rents in 1983 showed an annual increase of 4.6 per cent on their all buildings rental index, against a forecast of less than 5 per cent, most of the increase coming late in the year. The increase for offices in the central core was 5.7 per cent compared with an average of 4 per cent in other City areas.

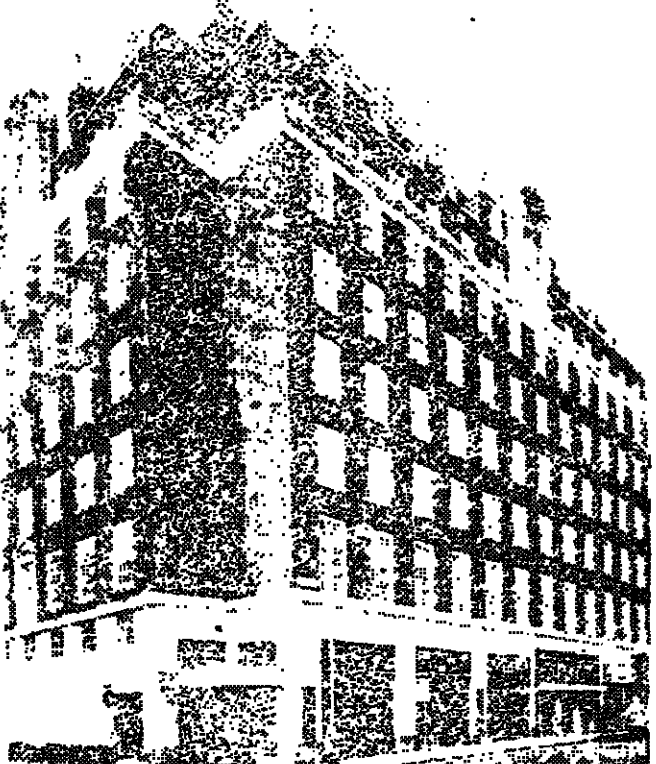
In their office accommodation review in January 1981, when top rents were about £24 a square foot, Richard Ellis predicted that on present trends top rents in the banking and insurance area could reach £40-45 a square foot by 1985.

"In spite of the severity of the recession and the continuation of development activity in the intervening period, top values remained on trend until the beginning of 1983," they say.

"The outlook for the market at the present time indicates that the lower end of our range could still be reached towards the end of 1985 - but the outcome will depend ultimately on the performance of the world economies during that year."

The overall growth of property in 1983 amounted to 7.2 per cent, according to the latest issue of the Jones Lang Wootton Property Index. Retail properties showed the highest capital growth at 6.4 per cent, while in the other sectors capital values remained largely static.

Christopher Warman



Knight Frank and Rutley have been instructed by Gulf Oil Company Eastern Hemisphere to dispose of their leases on the 4th and 5th floors of 129 Park Street, London W1. The offices have been full-partitioned and air-conditioned, and the common parts of the building upgraded. The offices are held on two separate leases assigned for 22 years from December 1976, subject to rent reviews, every five years, at a rent equivalent to £15.50 a square foot. The 4th floor provides about 8,982 sq ft and the 5th floor about 8,726 sq ft.

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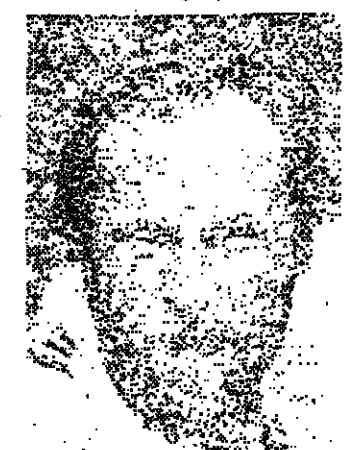
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CRICKET: ENGLAND GO TWO UP IN ONE-DAY SERIES

Willis turns to Marks for victory

From Derek Hodgson, Wellington



Marks: five for 20

Such is the strength of New Zealand's batting, it was pointed out confidently in these columns earlier this week, they could not be dismissed again for 134 as they were at Christchurch in the first of the Rothmans one-day series. That prediction was borne out here yesterday morning when England bowled them out for 135, winning the second match of the series by six wickets.

It is, of course, a great relief to write of the batting anxieties of other countries for a change, and New Zealand, ably abetted by Marks, who took the first five wickets for 20 runs to become man of the match, gave as neurotic a performance as any by England in recent years.

Geoff Howarth, their captain, admitted: "Even if the pitch was too slow and Marks was able to win a little turn we should still have scored around 210. There is no doubt that England are fielding extremely tightly and they bowled very well again, but that does not excuse another batting failure on our part. We cannot seem to bat in partnerships, to work together for a target."

New Zealand were set back by Wright's withdrawal because of a badly infected left ear. Edgar is out of form, while Franklin has a poor record against England. The pair had struggled to reach two runs an over when Marks was introduced.

Students threaten to disrupt Tests

Karachi (Reuters) - The first Test between England and Pakistan at Karachi in the first week of March is likely to be played under heavy security. Students have threatened to disrupt the series if the government does not lift a ban on student unions.

Hasil Khan, leader of a committee which said it represented 15 student organisations and more than 50,000 students in Karachi, said: "All the Tests will be disrupted if the government does not lift the ban."

The England team is arriving here on February 28 to play Tests at Karachi, Faisalabad and Lahore and two one-day internationals at Lahore and Karachi.

Students have held violent protests in the past 10 days, burning cars and stoning police, banks and government vehicles. Police said they had arrested about 100 students in Karachi while student leaders put the number at more than 250.

Last year at Karachi, students attacked the pitch and disrupted the match in spite of heavy security when the Indian team were playing against Pakistan. At the time the students were demanding a government ban on cricket, which they said was a waste of time.

Meanwhile, Haseeb Ali Khan, chief selector of the Board of Control for Cricket in Pakistan (BCCP), said Javed Miandad was struck by a bouncer from the Australian fast bowler, Dennis Lillee, in a benefit match for the former Indian captain, Bishan Bedi, in India last week.

However, the official APP news agency reported yesterday that Miandad might miss the first Test beginning on March 2 because he had been advised to take a two-week rest.

duced - into a north-westerly cross breeze - from the southern end to start the tenth over.

The sunlit crowd, officially 16,000 but seemingly more than a quarter again, had accepted a quiet start but became still and watchful as both batsmen found playing the off-spinner a difficult proposition. Franklin, misdriving, was caught and bowled in the twelfth over.

Edgar was bowled, half-cock, in the eighteenth, the Crowe brothers fell in successive overs at mid off and by the twenty eighth over, when Howarth was left before, New Zealand were 63-3 and the contest virtually over.

Coney and Hadlee, with some watchful defence, then added 41 runs, but another 12 overs passed and as soon as they tried to break England's grip wickets fell again. Foster had Hadlee and the dangerous Cairns caught at extra cover off successive balls.

Coney then plundered Botham's last over for a six. Robertson drove him for four. Botham then gained a swift and deadly revenge by running out Robertson with a throw from midwicket that hit the stumps.

A target of 136 in an innings starting just before three o'clock seemed an ideal opportunity for Gower to play himself into some runs again. Instead, he batted as though there were

only five overs left and twice lofted the ball before being caught at point at 36.

By then the sun had gone. Watchers in kilikinis on neighbouring roofs returned wearing blankies as the Wellington wind found an edge. In the middle Smith once again took his chance like a good professional, waiting for the loose ball and then dispatching it to the boundary. His 50 came in 83 minutes and included 11 boundaries. Although he lost Lamb (a well taken return catch) at 54 he left only the mopping up to do when the returning Hadlee forced him to play on.

New Zealand's last faint chance disappeared when Randall was dropped behind,

off Chalfield, at 38. Once settled he is difficult to displace on this tour and he was there to back-sweep the winning runs.

By then the crowd had begun to break up, or punch up, as the mood took them, although to regular English watchers the contest would have been regarded as somewhat flaccid, altogether lacking the spirit and dash of a Yorkshire special general meeting.

Willis made the point more seriously afterwards: "The New Zealand board will have to consider the preparation of the pitches for one-day games. This one looked good but was a disappointment, the ball not coming on to the bat. The crowds are flocking in now but their enthusiasm will soon disappear if teams are going to be scoring no more than 150 runs per innings."

He also explained that the early bowling of Marks was a pre-planned move: "It worked handsomely. We knew they would have to try to hit over the

top if they made a slow start and they got out doing it. Once again we had the right guys in the right places."

NEW ZEALAND: 135 (47.1 overs) B A Edgar b Marks 21, T J Franklin c and b Marks 21, G P Howarth b Marks 21, M D Crowe c Foster b Marks 44, J J Coney c Foster b Marks 21, J V Coney b Botham 21, R J Hadlee c Randall 21, B L Cairns c Gower b Foster 21, D S Smith b Botham 0, G Robertson not out 11, E J Chalfield not out 11, Extras (9 lb 2 wd) 11

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-22, 2-34, 3-50, 4-52, 5-63, 6-104, 7-104, 8-104, 9-135. BOWLING: R G D Willis 9-4-17-0, M J Coney 10-1-25-0, V Marks 10-3-29-5, T Botham 8-1-25-2, N A Foster 10-3-29-2.

ENGLAND: First Innings 217 (47.1 overs) D J Gower c Crowe b Chalfield 21, C L Smith b Hadlee 70, A J Lamb c and b Chalfield 25, D V Randall b Hadlee 15, I T Botham b Hadlee 15, M W Gower not out 8, Extras (9 lb 2 wd) 11

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-22, 2-34, 3-50, 4-52, 5-63, 6-104, 7-104, 8-104, 9-135. BOWLING: Hadlee 10-2-31-2, Robertson 9-5-28-0, Coney 9-1-25-0, Willis 10-5-18-2, Cairns 9-1-25-0.

Man of the match: V J Marks.

New Zealand drop Edgar

Wellington (Reuters) - New Zealand have dropped Bruce Edgar, their out-of-form opening batsman, and Gary Robertson, the fast bowler, from the side for the third and final one-day international against England in Auckland on Saturday.

Restored to the 12 from which the team will be chosen is

Stephen Boock, the slow left arm bowler, while Peter Webb, a batsman, is added. Boock played in the second and third Test matches against England, but Webb has not played for New Zealand this season.

TEAM (from) - G Howarth (Capt), S Boock, L Cairns, E Chalfield, J Coney, J Crowe, M Gower, T Franklin, R Hadlee, I Smith, P Webb, V Marks.

ATHLETICS

Stumble for Jones on Olympic road

By Pat Butcher

High Jones got a close view of the Olympic marathon course last Sunday, but it may not prove advantageous to his hopes of making the British team for the Games.

He was spreadeagled on the road at 10 miles in the Los Angeles international marathon, after being bumped at a drinks station. The leading group of half a dozen, who had been jostling for drinks, got away as Jones picked himself up, and he spent the next 16 miles running by himself.

He finished, in 2hr 11min 50sec, more than two minutes outside his best, and it has already been suggested that he may have to run the London marathon on May 13, along with other team prospects. However, Jones has no intention of running in London, which he feels is too close, allowing the media to follow him. He also feels that the British selectors should look at the circumstances of Sunday's race, and also at his previous competitive record, where Jones is on much safer ground.

The leaders got away by 50 yards and there was no chance of catching them again. It wasn't a brilliant run, about par for my form, but I was pleased that I finished, having been able to sustain some injury throughout the race," he said yesterday. Jones' return to the Olympic marathon, after being dropped from the 1980 team, was a surprise. Since winning the AAA marathon in Rugby in 1981, Jones has never been beaten by a British runner over the distance. He was third in the New York marathon last year, then went on to win the 1982 London marathon, in his best time of 2:09.24. He missed the European championship and Commonwealth Games marathons there in 1983, which eventually necessitated surgery on both ankles.

Jones came back last year to win the Stockholm marathon and secure his place in the British team for the world championship.

The marathon is the athletics event above all others, where lack of preparation will manifest itself in poor performance. Jones' eighth place in Helsinki in 2:11.15, was testimony to both his courage and talent, such a short time after very bad injuries.

In one of the series of close marathon finishes at the end of last year, Jones was outstripped for first place in Chicago, by Joseph Nzau, of Kenya, but his time of 2:09.45, his best since London in 1982, has only been beaten in British terms by Geoff Smith on his marathon debut in New York two weeks later. Smith is due to run in the Rotterdam marathon on April 14, as is Gerry Hillman, who was second in London last year. Mike Gratton, who won that race, will defend his title on May 13, and then it is up to the selectors.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Lewis ban will be held over until return

By Keith Macklin

The disciplinary committee meets in Leeds today, prepared to resolve a knotty international problem concerning Wally Lewis, the Australian captain, who has returned home following his short-term contract with Wakefield Trinity.

During his period with Trinity, he was sent off in the match against Leeds on January 29, for verbally abusing the referee, Peter Massey. It is more than likely that Lewis is suspended today, there is no international agreement in force for club games, making it mandatory for the Australian board of control to impose the sentence.

The League in Britain will therefore resolve the issue, by putting any suspension on file, to be imposed if and when Lewis returns to the country.

The saga of Frank Barrow's resignation as Oldham coach took its final turn yesterday when the Oldham club told Barrow that they would accept his resignation. Brian Gartland, who was third in the Oldham coaching hierarchy, has been named as interim coach. Smith and Barrow, takes over training.

Sussex pair quit

Sussex County Cricket Club have lost two young players, who are giving up the first class game. Opening batsman Jerry Heath, aged 24, says that he is not fit enough, while Ralph Cowan, aged 23, an Oxford Blue, is taking up physiotherapy.

Queen's Bench Division

Law Report February 23 1984

Chancery Division

Excluding adjoining development wrong

Sutton v Secretary of State for the Environment and Others

Before Mr Justice McCullough

[Judgment delivered February 20]

The Secretary of State for the Environment, on an appeal under section 18 of the Land Compensation Act 1961, had erred in law in holding that, for the purposes of application for a certificate under section 17 as to whether planning permission had been granted, the value of the land was to be ascertained by reference to the value of the land as if it had not been acquired by compulsory purchase, regard should be had to possible development on land owned or controlled by the applicant only and not to the possibility of comprehensive development involving both that land and adjoining land neither owned nor controlled by him.

Mr Justice McCullough so held in the Queen's Bench Division, allowing an application under section 21 of the 1961 Act for an order quashing a decision of the secretary of state, who on July 25, 1983 had dismissed appeals by the applicant, Mr Cecil Roland Sutton, against a certificate issued by the Cleethorpes Borough Council under section 17 that planning permission could not reasonably have been expected to be granted for any development other than the building of the A180 road, in respect of which a compulsory purchase order had been made, and against the failure of the Great Grimsby Borough Council to issue a certificate under section 17 within the prescribed time limit.

Mr Michael Burke-Gaffney, QC and Mr Justin Fenwick for the applicant; Mr Simon D. Brown for the secretary of state.

MR JUSTICE McCULLOUGH said that if planning permission

a comprehensive development of the applicant's land and neighbouring land were granted, the value of the applicant's land would probably be enhanced.

Nothing in section 17 suggested that account should not be taken of the possibility of such development, and indeed sections 17(1), 14(1), (4) (b), (2) strongly suggested that it should.

The word "class" in section 17 meant merely "that which could be expected to be granted for any development other than the building of the A180 road, in respect of which a compulsory purchase order had been made, and against the failure of the Great Grimsby Borough Council to issue a certificate under section 17 within the prescribed time limit."

Mr Michael Burke-Gaffney, QC and Mr Justin Fenwick for the applicant; Mr Simon D. Brown for the secretary of state.

MR JUSTICE McCULLOUGH said that if planning permission

for the duration of the settlor's life the trustees were to hold the income for the benefit of the settlor and of "any wife whom he might marry and the child or children or issue of the settlor by any wife" as the trustees thought fit.

In 1977 the settlor by deed released a power of appointment in favour of a surviving wife that had been reserved to him in the settlement and exercised the general power of appointment that had been conferred on him by giving to his power what amounted to a general power of appointment with the trustees' consent over the settled funds. The settlor died in June 1978. He never married nor did he have any children.

MR JUSTICE PETER GIBSON said that if, as the Crown contended, the settlor had the beneficial interest in the settled property immediately before his death then under paragraph 3(1) of Schedule 5 to the Finance Act 1975 he was to be treated as beneficially entitled to the property in which that interest

subisted. The consequence of that would be that under section 23(1) of that Act the value of that settled property would fall to be included in the settlor's estate.

If the trustees were correct in saying that the settlor, immediately before his death, had no beneficial interest in the settled property, then the capital transfer tax payable in respect of it would be substantially less.

Did the settlor, the object of the discretionary trust of income, nevertheless have an interest in possession in the settled property by virtue of his being the only object of the trust? In the light of the House of Lords' decision in *Pearson v Inland Revenue Commissioners* [1981] AC 752, an "interest in possession" in Schedule 5 bore its ordinary meaning of "a present right to present enjoyment."

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GOLF

Wounded Barnes is back on Safari

By Mitchell Plant

When Brian Barnes took off in the Nigerian Open in Lagos this morning he will not have practised since returning to Britain on February 6 after playing for British (Golfing) Lions against Africa, where he hurt his left hand when it was caught in an electric fan.

He has recovered sufficiently to go to the first prize of £18,000 in the £40,000 tournament at the Hosiery club which opens the five-tournament Safari tour.

Joining him are more than 20 PGA European Tour members, including Tony Jacklin, Ian Woosnam, Tommy Horton, Paul Hoad, Bill Longmuir, Carl Moon and the champion, Gordon Brand, senior. Brand went on to lead the Safari money list last year with £24,438 and later earned a place in the European Ryder Cup team.

The rewards of successful Safari tour, apart from generating confidence early in the year, include exempt status in Europe for the leading three players in the money list and a place in the Open Championship at St Andrews for the top money-winner.

Barnes, who gained three wins on the Safari tour in the past, says: "At the moment I must qualify for the Open and so it is an extra incentive to finish No. 1. The Nigerian Open is a nice event to start the year because you play with the one thought of simply getting round. There is no point because you must accept that there will be terrible lies and that it is strange putting on the oil-and-sand mix which forms their greens, known as 'browns'."

David Jagger, three times a winner of the Nigerian Open, set a record for the 180 course with a 59 in 1973. Other former winners competing include John Morgan, Horton, Longmuir and Peter Tupper, who established a world record of 72 holes with his winning aggregate of 255 in 1981. Stephen Kepler, Lindsay Mann and Philip Walton, three former Walker Cup golfers, are recruits from the amateur scene.

The £300,000 Safari tour continues next week when Longmuir will defend the £40,000 Ivory Coast Open on the dramatic President's Course.

TOUR DATES: February 22-26: Nigerian Open (Hosiery Club, Lagos); February 28-March 3: Ivory Coast Open (President's Course, Yamoussoukro); March 5-11: Kenya Open (Mumukia Club, Nairobi); March 15-18: Mauritius Open (Zambale Club, Port Louis); March 22-25: Zambia Open (Lusaka).

Barnes: hand healed

From Richard Eaton

England's men and women will each start slight favourites to win the European zone of the first ever combined Thomas and Uber cup competitions, starting today in Ostend. The tournaments are also the first to have attracted sponsorship, a record sum for the sport of \$500,000 (£360,000) from the cigarette company Marlboro.

The likely scenario is that England will play contests in Denmark, their great rivals, in both zone finals on Sunday, by which time they would already have qualified, because three men's and two women's teams go forward to the grand final in Malaysia in May.

That is not, however, likely to end these England v Denmark confrontations of their customary blood-sucking intensity, because England will be expected to contest the European final in a couple of months' time, and the Danish men also have their first ever defeat in an international match on English soil, this season, to get out of their systems.

The English women, despite having the former world number one Gillian Triggs suffering from a cold, should win a group containing West Germany, Scotland and Belgium, and the men should win their group, containing Austria, Norway and Uganda. The only possible danger to England could occur if the men find themselves with a zone semi-final against Sweden, who knocked them out of the competition at Cardiff in 1979.

The semi-finals should take place on Saturday, and by then the England number one, Steve Baddeley, who withdrew with influenza from the Dutch open tournament at the weekend, should have recovered sufficiently to play.

The last time the Thomas Cup was played, two years ago in England, the hard-fighting young Swiss left-hander produced a wonderful victory against one of the world's top players, Mishun Sidik, and England beat Malaysia, the former holders, to reach the semi-finals for the first time.

ENGLAND TEAMS: Thomas Cup: S. Baddeley, N. Yates, A. Goode, S. Butler, M. Duggan, D. Brown, N. Tait, U. C. H. Tait, K. Beckman, J. Webster, F. Elliot, G. Gowers, G. Gals, S. Sutton, K. Chapman.

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Public Appointments

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Further information can be obtained from the Secretary of Appointments, Committee for Departmental Secretaries, General Board Office, The Old Schools, Cambridge, CB2 1TT, to whom applications, together with the names of not more than 3 referees, should be sent so as to reach him not later than 6 April, 1984.

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Applicants should have experience at a senior level in at least one sector of the children's field, a commitment to an inter-disciplinary approach and a clear understanding of the operation and inter-relationships of the major agencies involved.

Hours flexible but averaging 14 hours per week over the year. SALARY ON SCALE CIRC 24,000 pa.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS AND APPLICATION FORM PLEASE CONTACT: PETER DOWDALL, NATIONAL CHILDREN'S BUREAU, 8 WALKLEY STREET, LONDON, EC1V 7QE. TELEPHONE 01-278 9441.

CLOSING DATE FOR RETURN OF FORM 18th MARCH 1984.

IMPERIAL CANCER RESEARCH FUND

SECRETARY

required to help set up a new Histopathology Unit based in the Royal College of Surgeons, London, WC2 and to provide a range of administrative and secretarial services for visiting pathologists and research staff.

Age 22+ with good secretarial skills, including shorthand. Medical experience preferred. Salary range £5,983 to £8,822. Medical Scheme, 22 days leave.

For further information and application form write or telephone: Mrs S. M. Hurley, Imperial Cancer Research Fund, Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, WC2 2 ar. 01-242 0200 ext 245 quoting reference 46/84.

NUFFIELD COLLEGE, OXFORD OX1 1NF

GWILYM GIBSON RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

Applications are invited from men and women, preferably with experience of one of the public services, wishing to undertake a year's research into, or study of, a problem in the field of government and administration. The fellowship carries free rooms, secretarial services, common table rights, and reimbursement of necessary expenses, but normally no stipend. In exceptional cases a supplementary stipend is payable.

Further particulars from the Admission Secretary. CLOSING DATE MONDAY 23 APRIL 1984.

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

Appear each Thursday

For Further Information

Telephone Stanley L. Marek

on

01-278 9162

The Spanish Promotion Centre I.N.F.E.

PR/Promotions Assistant Food £12,000 per annum. The Spanish Promotion Centre, the office for the promotion of Spanish exports in the UK is looking for an Assistant for PR/Promotions for Food Products. He/She will operate in the PR/Promotional field and will be directly responsible to the Director for Foods.

The successful candidate will have 3-5 years' experience in the food PR-Promotional field, a good knowledge of Spanish, a broad understanding of marketing and sales techniques, willingness to travel and a clean driving licence. Interested candidates should send their CV to:

The Personnel Director Spanish Promotion Centre 22 Manchester Square, London W1

ADMINISTRATOR

Management consultancy in NW1 are seeking an enthusiastic administrator to assist in the day to day running of the company.

Ideally you will be 25+ with previous experience in bookkeeping and administration. Typing skills and a knowledge of word processors would be an advantage but most importantly you will be capable of acting on your own initiative and have a desire to learn and be involved with all aspects of running a small office.

Salary will be commensurate with skills and experience.

Please write your cv to Jill McKenzie, KJA MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS, 9 Parkway, London NW1 7PG

SEC/PA IN DESIGN STUDIO

Good skills, working as part of small team in Design Studio of large West End Ad Agency. Very involving job.

SEC/ASSISTANT IN P/R CITY £7,500

Fast moving consultancy - assisting P/R Director. Lots of scope.

YOUNG W1 AD AGENCY

Busy Account Team needs efficient Sec. pref. French speaking. Good prospects.

WEST END ADVERTISING JUNIORS £4,500-£20,000

We need College Leavers/2nd jobs with good skills to work in Advertising/PR and related fields in the Communications Industry.

TEMPS: WE HAVE A VARIETY OF SHORT AND LONG TERM ASSIGNMENTS IN THE COMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY.

Please call Caroline Price or Jane Capon on 493 8458

adpower communications

8 Blenheim Street London W1

Would you like to do something interesting, something helpful?

The International Centre for Eye Health has a vacancy for a SENIOR SECRETARY

Salary scale £7,346 - £8,348 (including London Allowance).

The Centre is part of the new Department of Preventive Ophthalmology of the Institute of Ophthalmology, which is associated with Moorfields Eye Hospital.

It is concerned with teaching, research and field work on the elimination of blindness, training workers from all over the world and requires good secretarial support for its busy Professor and his team. You would be part of this team and your help in its important work will be highly appreciated by your colleagues.

The Centre is well equipped, with word-processing facilities, etc. If you have good secretarial skills together with motivation, initiative, initiative and a sense of humour, please write to Professor Bart J. Jones, Institute of Ophthalmology, 27-29 Cavendish Street, London, EC1V 9EL, or phone 01-253 3411. Ext 408 (Miss Lee) for further details.

ADMINISTRATOR

£9,000 neg

An exciting opportunity has arisen to assist in the formation of a new company which will revolutionise the traditional trading function. Already successful in the USA, this innovative company is seeking a capable and sophisticated person to assist in the setting up and running of the London office. Exp of carrying out such a function would be a distinct asset. This is a genuinely a position offering vast scope for development. Although you would be carrying out an essential role, you could be useful.

SYNERGY the recruitment consultancy 01-637 8633

DIRECTOR'S PA

to £26,000

Join the leading television company at Board level assisting a Director in theatre and other activities. You will carry out an essential function offering extensive involvement at all levels. As well as organisational ability, you will need initiative and energy for this major PA position. Skills 100/60 wpm neg.

SYNERGY the recruitment consultancy 01-637 8633

Admin/Secretary

to £8,000

To work for this delightful director you should have an outgoing personality, sense of humour and a day to day involvement in your work. Although your secretarial skills (100/50) are essential, more important are your organisational and administrative abilities. As a leader in the field of information technology and a regular organiser of exhibitions, this young, go-ahead, energetic person offers plenty of scope for growth. Education to level of degree level. Age 25-32. Excellent salary and benefits. Please call 01-493 5787.

GORDON YATES LTD 35 Old Broad Street, W1 (Recruitment Consultants)

SECRETARY/PA

ST JAMES

based firm (near Green Park underground) of Commercial Estate Agents require lively dynamic Secretary/PA for a Partner and Assistant dealing with office lettings and development work. Friendly atmosphere and pleasant working conditions offered in return for intelligence and initiative. No shorthand. House (10m-12m). Starting salary £7,500 pa. Plus L.V.s, 4 weeks holidays

Contact Angela Rhodes on 01-629 9100

OLYMPIC HOLIDAY LIMITED

BRITAIN'S LARGEST SPECIALIST TOUR OPERATOR TO GREECE

PA/SECRETARY to the CHAIRMAN and CHIEF EXECUTIVE you'll be seeking an interesting, challenging and rewarding position to succeed in organising the dynamic and very successful entrepreneur who is Chairman and Chief Executive of the OLYMPIC Holidays Group of Companies.

Applicants must be self-motivated, quick-thinking, flexible, diplomatic and well-presented. A sense of humour and a charming personality and the capability of remaining calm in a pressured environment and be used to working long hours are essential.

Excellent education, possibly with a degree, together with first class secretarial skills (100/60) and strong administrative and management qualities are required.

Previous experience in the leisure industry is desirable and a proven track record of not less than 4 years working at senior level is required. Age 28-40, earning not less than £5,500

Attractive salary including 22 days holiday pa, BUPA, Pension Scheme and staff travel concessions

Only if you believe you match-up to the above criteria, write together with current CV to: Miss Jackie Domb, Personnel & Administration Manager, Olympic Holidays Ltd, 17 Old Court Place, Kensington High Street, London W8 4PL. Tel: 01-727 8056.

Marketing and Promotions Assistant

Holborn Viaduct

We are an energetic young publishing company looking for a Marketing and Promotions Assistant to work in our expanding newsletter Dept.

This responsible job requires a proven administrator with fast typing and marketing or direct mail experience.

Self-motivation and the ability to organise effective promotions essential. Good salary and benefits.

For more information please contact Mrs R Grant on 01-236 4080. No agencies please.

PA TO CHAIRMAN

of aggressive and established international company based in Bromley. Good career opportunity for someone looking for a challenging and rewarding post. Successful applicants will have excellent secretarial skills, the ability to work on own initiative, ability to handle both business and personal affairs, have high standards, smart appearance, outgoing personality and a sense of humour. Age 25-30.

Apply with CV to: Mrs N Chivers, Tiphook Holdings Ltd, Chelsea House, 26 Market Square, Bromley, Kent.

BRIGHT AUDIO SECRETARY

Required for young dynamic commercial property team in West End. Experience in this field essential. Speed 55+.

Salary £7,000 p.a. non-smoker

Contact TRUDY 409 2121

SECRETARY/PA TO COLLEGE PRINCIPAL

Croydon £7,500

An independent sixth-form college in Croydon requires a Secretary/PA to handle the academic and administrative correspondence of the Principal's office. Knowledge and experience of further and higher education as well as word-processing skills desirable.

For further details and application form, contact: The Principal, Cambridge Tutors Educational Trust, Water Tower Hill, Croydon, Tel: 01-888 824.

SECRETARY

Circa £8,000 pa

The Managing Director of a busy International Export Company based in Croydon requires a competent, well educated Secretary with experience and a clear understanding of the operation and inter-relationships of the major agencies involved.

Please write with personal and career details to: The Personnel Manager Meridian Trade Corporation Limited 42 Upper Berkeley Street, London W1H 7PL

ADMINISTRATOR/RECEPTIONIST

£6,000 + REVIEW

A very varied position for an experienced person to act as a receptionist and administrative assistant in a busy office. The successful candidate will be responsible for the day to day running of the office and will be expected to handle a wide range of correspondence and administrative tasks. The successful candidate will be expected to handle a wide range of correspondence and administrative tasks. The successful candidate will be expected to handle a wide range of correspondence and administrative tasks.

Elizabeth Hunt RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS 18 Grosvenor Street London W1 Telephone 01-499 8070

STEPPING STONES

HARPERS & QUEEN

Needs an intelligent college trained Junior Secretary for the social news editor. Must have secure shorthand and typing. Good general knowledge, be a non-smoker and live within reasonable travelling distance from W 1 office.

Please write to: BEVERLIE FLOWER, THE NATIONAL MAGAZINE CO. LTD, 72 Broadwick Street, LONDON W1V 2BP

ROYAL ACADEMY OF DANCING

training staff which is responsible for the training of young dancers from the Academy world wide, typing and shorthand skills are essential. Background in dance an advantage. Hours: 9.30am - 5.30pm. Salary: £2,000. Phone or write to: The Royal Academy of Dancing, 40, Kingsway, London WC2B 6EX.

01-730 5148

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Elizabeth Hunt RECRUITMENT CONSULTANTS 18 Grosvenor Street London W1 Telephone 01-499 8070

STEPPING STONES

HARPERS & QUEEN

Sales and Marketing

CAN YOU SELL?

1. Do you have a friendly and persuasive manner?
2. Do you have a sense of humour?
3. Do you have a pleasing voice and the ability to express yourself clearly?
4. Are you resilient and capable of hard work?
5. Can you work well under pressure?
6. Are you educated to at least A level standard?
7. Are you aged between 21-31?

If you can honestly answer yes to ALL questions, then you could be one of the people we are looking for to sell Classified Advertising for The Times and Sunday Times.

Our telephone sales staff are trained to help our advertisers sell their homes, cars, antiques, etc. or let their holiday cottages or villas, and such variety adds up to an interesting and demanding job.

While we give you all the training and encouragement you need, how far you progress is dependent on your own sales effort and ultimate performance.

If you feel you have the right qualities, ring the Telephone Sales Manager, on 01-537 1234 Extension 7869.

Times Newspapers Ltd.,

SALES DIRECTOR for European Tour Operator (London based)

The Company, which has been established for 5 years, specialises in the operation of coach tours throughout Europe, Scandinavia and the UK, tailor-made for groups from North America, the Middle East and South Africa. A comprehensive FIT programme has also been developed for these markets.

We are now seeking to appoint a top-level, dynamic Sales Executive, with extensive experience in the travel industry, to develop and manage the Company's sales programme in the above markets.

The successful candidate will be responsible for the development and management of the Company's sales programme in the above markets.

Full resume to: Box 2232H The Times.

MARKETING EXECUTIVE SALARY NEGOTIABLE

We require a person who can set up a national distribution agency and sales network in the UK. Preference may be given to those with a knowledge of the pump market, but such experience is not essential. Our products are produced by a manufacturer of international repute and we are seeking a Head of Marketing to promote this product and advise the board.

Reply with full CV to: ANDREW DAVIES AND ASSOCIATES, 28-30 Lambeth Lane, Liverpool, L15 8BT.

CALIFORNIA

Small venture capital firm need 1982 based in L.A. requires immediately, dynamic and highly motivated business/finance Director (male/female, any age), possibly with medical background and/or high tech. equipment with proven sales record in California (in USA sales \$500,000 in 1982, \$1,000,000 in 1983). Salary/comm. negotiable. Share participation for right candidate. Apply to:

PARSONS GREEN REPRODUCTIONS LTD

Demanding sales and administrative position available for responsible experienced person in our Patent Furniture Showrooms. Ability to work on own initiative essential as part of small friendly company. Excellent working conditions and salary. PHONE 788 3718

Weymouth St., W1

Large furnished 3 bed room flat with in mod. decor with lift and power service. Rental \$5,500 pa. Period 12 months. 12 years remaining on present lease. \$15,000 for complete furniture, fridge and contents. Tel: 01-637 4782

UVATEC

Suite 47, 21 Seymour Street, London, W.1. Tel. 01-262 6453

Banking and Accountancy Appointments

Financial Controller to be based at WEST LONDON headquarters

Substantial Remuneration Package

We are a rapidly expanding retail group with a projected turnover for 1984 in excess of £10 million. We require a responsible and experienced person, aged over 30, who has retail experience gained in a commercial environment, to take overall charge for the company's accounting department. This will also involve the preparation of cash flow analysis, monthly management accounts and budgets. The person will be reporting directly to the managing director. The successful applicant must have experience in systems reviews, as the current manual systems for order processing, stock control and payroll are to be computerised within the year.

Experience in correspondence is necessary as the successful applicant will be required to deal direct with banks, insurance brokers, solicitors, accountants etc.

The successful candidate will be a qualified A.C.A., A.C.C.A., or I.C.M.A. Please reply in confidence to:

Box No. 0049H

Enclosing full CV, and also salary requirements.

Part Qualified Accountants

Mid Twenties? Studying for ACA/ICMA or ACCA? For an informal and confidential discussion about your current situation and potential career options contact Robin McWilliams on 01-242 0965, Michael Page Partnership (Cons), PO Box 143, 31 Southampton Row, London WC1B 5HY.



FINALIST

Berks. £12,000. Accept the challenge offered by this prestigious group. Offering sophisticated computer support, you will produce effective management information. Varied and responsible role contributing to career development. Ref: 6123. REED ACCOUNTANCY, 114 Peacock Street, Windsor or 164 High Street, Slough. 07535 51447 or 0753 76677

THE GEELONG HOSPITAL

ORTHOPAEDIC SURGEONS

Applications are invited from appropriately qualified and experienced persons for appointment to the Visiting Medical Staff at this 468 bed teaching hospital.

Appointees will be remunerated on a seasonal basis for the treatment of hospital patients and will have the right to treat private patients on the basis of a fee for service.

The hospital, which is fully accredited by the Australian Council on Hospital Standards, provides a specialist regional service to a population in excess of 300,000 persons.

Further information may be obtained on enquiry from Dr M Jones, Director of Medical Services, from whom application forms may be obtained.

General Appointments

SENIOR ADMINISTRATOR

with Engineering/Architectural qualification and background.

To manage team of Construction Industry Professionals within Government Department of Middle East country.

Successful candidate will have had at least 15 years' post qualification experience and will probably have worked in the public sector managing a department and have overseas experience.

Remuneration tax free and commensurate with the position.

Please reply giving details of CV and quoting reference 1777/1 Box 2402H The Times.

NATURE CONSERVANCY COUNCIL DIRECTOR SCOTLAND

£19,243 - £23,159

Applications are invited for the post of Director Scotland which will be vacant in January, 1985, on the retirement of the present Director, Dr J Morton Boyd, BSc, PhD, DSC, FRSE.

The person appointed will be responsible for NCC's activities in Scotland including a staff of 115 and 61 National Nature Reserves and over 800 Sites of Special Scientific Interest and will work closely with the Chairman of Council's Advisory Committee for Scotland. As a member of the Board of Directors the Director contributes to the formulation and implementation of Council's policies and to the wider management of NCC throughout Great Britain.

Candidates must be capable of working at the highest levels with Central and Local Government and Agencies, with land managers and users, and with scientific, professional and voluntary bodies.

A proven capacity for leadership and management is required as is an appropriate background of experience. The post provides outstanding opportunities for developing nature conservation.

The post is graded at Deputy Chief Scientific Officer and is based in Edinburgh.

Interviews will be held in London (19/20 Belgrave Square) during May, 1984.

For application forms and further details contact Mrs J Whiting, Nature Conservancy Council, Godwin House, George Street, Huntington, Cambs. Tel: Huntingdon 56191, Ext 278.

Closing date for receipt of completed application forms is 30 March, 1984.

CARGILL UK LIMITED

is a member of the Cargill Group trades, processes, stores and transports bulk commodities - mainly agricultural - all over the world. It is active in 48 countries, has over 700 offices and plants, employs around 40,000 people and to progress the expansion of its UK operations, now has the following opportunities in Engineering and Food Technology:

MECHANICAL ENGINEERS

We are seeking graduate Mechanical Engineers for new projects. Applicants should have 1 to 2 years experience in project engineering or bulk materials handling. Duties will include project engineering work on capital expenditure projects involving bulk materials handling and storage, conceptual planning, estimating, analysis of tenders, construction inspection and co-ordination. Must be mobile. To work in London head office and locations in Northern England.

CHEMICAL ENGINEERS

for our corn wet milling plant at Tilbury. Applicants should be chemical engineering graduates who are prepared to learn our processing operations with a view to becoming part of our management team.

FOOD TECHNOLOGISTS

Ideally we require graduates in food technology or food science or alternatively someone with 2 to 3 years experience in a food processing company. Duties will include work on the development of new products, quality control and liaison with our customers on the technical possibilities of the product range.

We offer the opportunity to join a progressive and active company with an attractive employment package and salaries commensurate to the opportunities available. Age 21 to 30 preferred.

Applicants please submit C.V. in confidence to the Personnel Manager.

CARGILL UK LIMITED, 3 Shortlands, London W8 8RT.

Leading Theatrical Management require a YOUNG PRESS AND PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER

Lots of personality and initiative essential. Responsibilities include dealing with all media as well as organising reception and close liaison with industrial sponsors. Telephone 01-530 5241.

MEDIA APPOINTMENTS

BIBLE SOCIETY Publishing Director

Bible Society operates a large specialist Christian Publishing House and wishes to appoint a Publishing Director, to be based at Swindon Bible Centre, Wiltshire.

Reporting to the Executive Director, the Publishing Director will be responsible for a Division with sales of about £5 million and with more than 50 employees, which specialises in publishing and distributing Bibles and Bible study aids, in English and other languages, throughout the world. UK and some overseas travel will be involved.

The successful applicant will be a Christian with extensive experience in publishing, and preferably more than five years' experience in marketing at management level. He/she will have proven ability on general management at a level commensurate with the size and scope of the Bible Society's operation.

A practical knowledge and a dedication to the use of the best modern management methods, together with the self-confidence to lead a team of professional managers are essential.

The person appointed must be able to provide positive Christian leadership to the staff of the Publishing Division and will see Bible Society as a vital instrument in the continuance and development of Christian mission in the world.

For an application form and job description please apply to Mr. A. James Escent, Personnel Officer, Bible Society, 146 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4BX. (01-248 4751).

INTERNATIONAL BANKING CHIEF EDITOR FOR PUBLICATIONS

A major UK clearing bank requires a Chief Editor to lead an editorial team producing a high quality range of publications aimed at the bank's corporate customers in the UK and overseas. He or she must be a versatile and talented writer able to contribute to the bank's economic and financial periodicals; produce a range of brochures on international banking services; and produce a range of brochures on numerous branches and subsidiaries.

The ideal candidate will have a sound economic and/or financial background, preferably with several years' experience of writing and editing in this specialist area. The ability to inspire new publications and to make a creative contribution to design and style is most important.

The job holder will be responsible to the manager, publications for the output of the editorial team and will act as his deputy.

The salary shown is c. £15,800 including London allowance, plus all the normal benefits associated with a major UK clearing bank (under review from April, 1984).

Please apply in writing with career details and specifying why you feel you should be considered for the following Box 2403 H The Times.

MANCHESTER INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

HEAD OF AIRFIELD SERVICES

Salary £15,581/£16,578 per annum + Essential User Car Allowance

The person appointed will have responsibility for all operational aspects of airfield management including ensuring compliance with CAA licensing requirements, provision of technical advice on the planning of airfield facilities and improvements, control of noise monitoring and direct responsibility for airfield safety and fire services.

Applicants should have extensive experience of large-scale airfield operations at senior management level.

A telephone allowance, removal expenses and lodging allowances payable.

Full details and application form (returnable by 12.3.84) are available from Head of Personnel Services, Manchester International Airport Authority, Room 728, Control Tower Building, Manchester International Airport, Telephone 061 489-3714.

Previous applicants will be automatically reconsidered.

GENERAL MANAGER GARDEN PRODUCTS

£20,000 + car

A growth challenge in an established European group's UK subsidiary, to interest a mobile, decisive sales leader.

You need to demonstrate over 5 years sales and brand management successes with consumer or garden products. A strong personality with management breadth, aged probably 30 to 40, you are ready to develop a profit centre around a well known brand name. Large company benefits and career avenues.

Men and women should write in confidence, enclosing full CV under ref. 1800/ST, to me at: 500 CHESHAM HOUSE, 150 REGENT STREET, LONDON W1R 5PA

Peter Kendell

MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT

Land Agent

An Agent of outstanding ability is required by the Chairman of a group of private companies to be responsible direct to him for the management of his private estate. This comprises several thousand acres of farming, which is all in hand, plus forestry and extensive sporting interests. The importance and challenging nature of the position will present a unique opportunity to the successful applicant.

Candidates should have a sound academic record, including university degree and relevant professional qualification, and must be of proven ability in their career to date. Ideally this will have involved the successful accomplishment of two previous positions in agriculture or estate management. Applicants under 35 are unlikely to have the requisite experience. Other necessary qualities are energy and drive, the ability to get on with others at all levels, a sense of humour and attention to detail.

The importance of the position will be reflected in the remuneration package which will include a generous salary, house, car and pension scheme.

Please apply with full c.v. to Box 0048H The Times

IONIAN GREECE SOUTHERN TURKEY

Couriers required, and April to October. Must be fluent in English and Greek. Must be of all ages groups. Must be with a sense of humour. Good knowledge of Greek and Turkish. Age between 22 and 35. Write to: Christopher Halden, 4 The White House, Beacon Road, Crowborough, TN11 1JH. Tel: 01892 52111. No agencies.

Crowborough TN11 1JH.

Japanese and Oriental speaking sales office with legal qualifications and business experience required for new venture by established company. Write with CV to Box 2232H The Times.

ANTIQUE DEALERS require assistant. Please telephone 01-7885 for details.

WINE MERCHANTS, CHELSEA. Immediate opening for experienced salesperson. Must be able to sell wine. Good salary. Good benefits. Good working conditions. Write with CV to Box 2232H The Times.

HOUSEPLANTS specialists and florists. Immediate opening for experienced salesperson. Must be able to sell plants. Good salary. Good benefits. Good working conditions. Write with CV to Box 2232H The Times.

General Manager - 30 to 40 years of age. Duty Manager - 25 to 35 years of age. Please apply in writing enclosing a complete C.V. to: N McKenna c/o 18 Crieft Road, Wandsworth, London SW18. Applications to be received post latest Wednesday 7th March 1984.

CRITE - GREECE. Tour operator requires experienced representative for Greece. Must be fluent in English and Greek. Must be of all ages groups. Must be with a sense of humour. Good knowledge of Greek and Turkish. Age between 22 and 35. Write to: Christopher Halden, 4 The White House, Beacon Road, Crowborough, TN11 1JH. Tel: 01892 52111. No agencies.

EXPERIENCED ARCHITECT required by small potential development company to do a wide range of design on housing projects. Salary £10,000 - £12,000. Write with CV to Box 2232H The Times.

TEMP IN ADVERTISING. I've got 6 full time positions to fill and need good shorthand and copy in the West End. Please ring me. Send CV to: 01-262 5601, (City Sec Rec. Cent).

MULTILINGUAL SECRETARY. German/Italian/English. Salary £10,000 - £12,000. Write with CV to Box 2232H The Times.

SECRETARIES FOR ARCHITECTS and Designers. Temporary positions. AMBA Special. Salary £10,000 - £12,000. Write with CV to Box 2232H The Times.

ITALIAN/GERMAN/ENGLISH. Salary £10,000 - £12,000. Write with CV to Box 2232H The Times.

COLLEGE LEAVES. Immediate opening for experienced salesperson. Must be able to sell college leaves. Good salary. Good benefits. Good working conditions. Write with CV to Box 2232H The Times.

ARCHITECTS' PAVES. Immediate opening for experienced salesperson. Must be able to sell architects' paves. Good salary. Good benefits. Good working conditions. Write with CV to Box 2232H The Times.

AN IMMEDIATE START. £6,000. A small firm of 10 people. Immediate opening for experienced salesperson. Must be able to sell. Good salary. Good benefits. Good working conditions. Write with CV to Box 2232H The Times.

PERSONAL SECRETARY PA to OI. Director SW1. Good shorthand and typing. £10,000 - £12,000. Write with CV to Box 2232H The Times.

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General Appointments

The Times guide to career development

Get the community action habit

It's tough trying to get out of the rough of long-term unemployment. Even graduates equipped with above-average resourcefulness and the capacity to beat off boredom can easily succumb to the demoralizing routine of bed till noon and TV thereafter.

That was why, two years ago, the Manpower Services Commission set up its "Community Programme, to help those who have not been in a job for some time to rebuild the habit of work.

The Community Programme actually meets two needs. The first is to help the unemployed regain their confidence. The second is to undertake useful "community projects" from which a neighbourhood or locality can benefit.

This does not just mean cleaning up the eye-sores which any self-respecting council would have dealt with years ago. Nor indeed is CP restricted to quasi-social work. One of the exciting things about the programme is the width of opportunities which it offers. Indeed, great imagination has been shown in developing stimulating openings.

For example, recent editions of *Graduate Post*, the MSC's newspaper for graduate job-seekers, has carried advertisements for graphic designers, photographers, computer programmers, technical writers, community education workers, and industrial archaeologists - all under the programme. These vacancies were for interesting work (Some were part-

Thirty MSC recruits are passing 1984 in the wooded upper reaches of the Tamar valley - at Morwellham. Devon. A century ago work was a thriving port exporting Dartmoor minerals. Schooners of up to 300 tons jacked up at the quays, until decay set in at the turn of the century when the railway arrived.

Now the docks, cottages, workshops and farms have become recreated as living history. Morwellham is an industrial archaeology museum, with its own interpretive staff clad in costumes of a century ago.

The MSC staff are helping with extra projects to deepen the sense of returning to the past. Three women - one with haute couture experience - are designing and making Victorian costumes from crinolines to working gear for dummies in a tableaux. An ex-miner, brought in from Redruth (no local man was available) is assisting in extending the route which visitors will travel through the copper mine. A skilled surveyor is also in the team. A mason in his mid-30s, overjoyed to be working again after the collapse of his firm, is in charge a mile downstream, at the deserted hamlet of New Quay. Here unskilled MSC colleagues are learning to make safe the ruined houses lime kilns and access route to preserve the place from ruin.

Edward Fennell considers the appeal of the MSC's Community Programme for graduates, while Ann Hills (below) looks at the scheme in action

time), but of course none of them was "permanent" and the wages were modest (an average of £60 per week).

Springtime is likely to be a good period for recruitment of recent graduates to the Community Programme. Under its regulations 18 to 24-year-olds are eligible only if they have been unemployed for six out of the preceding nine months. Consequently, graduates from last summer are now starting to qualify. (Those aged 25 and over are also eligible, providing they have been out of work for 12 of the last 15 months).

Nationwide there are 130,000 places and, apart from the South-east, they have not been hard to fill. The Government, following a recent review, has just given the programme the go-ahead for a further two years, and the evidence seems to suggest that people coming off CP are finding it easier to get full-time employment.

Apart from any other benefits the experience of work provided by CP is a definite asset when job-seeking. To be able to demonstrate specific skills and responsibilities gained in CP is always much better than a blank employment record.

Foundation course

Back on the Duke of Bedford's private drive at Morwellham, two other adult trainees are acquiring the art of handling shire horses, which draw wagonfuls of tourists. "These skills are rare - they should find jobs after leaving," says the museum's manager Gary Emerson.

He formed the CP scheme in November 1983, "just before a temporary moratorium was called". MSC contributes salaries from £80 to £188 a week, and an extra £440 towards materials - from explosives in the mine to cloth for clothes for each worker, full or part-time.

Hint House, a Victorian listed school in Faversham, Kent is being converted by MSC workers into a centre for craftspeople, a tourist information centre and a hall for hire by the public.

At the Tank Museum, Bovington, in Dorset, nine men and women on CP include teachers and education officer. Some of them are indexing the collection and the library, and one is a photographer. The curator, Lt Col. George Forty, hopes that the mu-

The sponsors of the individual projects who run the schemes on behalf of the MSC mostly tend to be local authorities and charities, and although churches, clubs, and indeed local businesses could all get involved.

Trade unions have expressed reservations about the programme, and there has been opposition from other quarters. The Right Reverend David Sheppard, the Bishop of Liverpool and chairman of the MSC Area Board for Merseyside and Cheshire, has described recently how the programme in his area was launched "in the teeth of great opposition". Nonetheless, 115,000 people were engaged in early February, so it clearly has some appeal.

Indeed, it could be argued that CP is one of the positive outcomes from the recession, since it encourages local initiatives, backed by national money, and organizes schemes which benefit both participants and the community at large.

If western industrialized society truly does face the "collapse of work" in the face of automation, then new methods have to be found for engaging people in useful and satisfying activity. The Community Programme may represent the way forward, providing both a bridge into permanent jobs and a model for long-term employment in new forms of employment. If you are an unemployed graduate, then the CP in your area may well be worth following up.

seum's current expansion will enable him to keep on at least one or two of these one-year staff.

Up in the Scottish borders, 45 MSC Community Programme aged 18 to more than 60 are part of the Borders Burghs Archaeology Project. Evidence has been uncovered of the Great Fires of Kelso in the seventeenth century. In Jedburgh, the foundations of a friary destroyed by the English in 1545 have been revealed.

The MSC project manager is Peter Dixon, 30, an archaeology graduate. "There are few permanent jobs in the field," he says, adding that he hopes for an extension beyond the end of the year in August. The task requires continuity.

The team has put on an exhibition explaining several digs and revealing finds, and plans to produce a computerized sites and monuments record for the whole region.

The year's work is costing MSC £182,000. £147,000 for wages, the rest for administration and running costs. Reports on success so far are available from Alison Macgregor, Borders Architects Group, Turret House, Kelso.

"Jobs are shifting to the suburbs" last Thursday was by Barrie Sherman.

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Austerity budget slashes Israeli defence spending

From Moshe Brilliant, Tel Aviv

Military spending in Israel will be cut by 10 per cent in real terms during the coming year, according to the annual budget estimates presented to the Knesset yesterday by Mr Yigal Cohen-Orag, the Finance Minister.

The Defence Ministry's allocation will be \$2,757m, and will provide for a six-month stay in southern Lebanon. If the forces remain longer, funds will have to be provided from the reserves.

At the same time, there will be a virtual freeze on the controversial land settlement schemes in the West Bank. Mr Cohen-Orag said the emphasis will be on consolidating the 25 settlements founded in the past year.

In a desperate attempt to bring public spending and the rate of inflation under control, some 8,000 civil service jobs will vanish and government planners will increase unemployment by 2 per cent to six and a half per cent.

Israelis in higher income groups will have to pay for secondary school tuition, health insurance rates will be increased and breadwinners in the 45 per cent income tax bracket with up to three children will have to pay taxes on state grants to their children.

The Minister said after two or three years the new approach would overcome the gap in the balance of payments and restrain the three-digit annual inflation. He acknowledged more drastic measures might have obtained quicker results but he said they were dangerous

and risked unemployment on an intolerable scale.

Introducing his \$15,676m estimates Mr Cohen-Orag told parliament that Israeli living standards would be lowered to the 1982 level to assure the country's foreign currency needs.

Reductions of 7-10 per cent in government spending, together with an expected decline in imports and an 8½ per cent increase in exports will help to reduce this year's \$4,100m (£2,900m) international payments gap by \$1,000m. Mr Cohen-Orag said that without the support of world Jewry and US aid, now over \$2,500m a year, Israel would not be able to carry on.

The cut in imports will be mainly in consumer goods which the minister said had risen at a "terrifying rate" during the previous administration and contributed to the dangerous situation threatening Israel with a shortage of currency to operate the economy.

The Treasury did not include a forecast of the annual inflation rate in its calculations. The estimate was reckoned on an assumption that the average exchange rate during the first quarter of the fiscal year will be 192 shekels per dollar. The rate yesterday was 132 shekels.

The estimates will be updated quarterly.

Mr Cohen-Orag told parliament every citizen would have to share the burden and there were no short cuts. He said conditions were not ripe to tackle the inflation problem this year.

Farmer Holland to close his shirehorse stud

One of Britain's oldest shirehorse studs will be split up when farmer Mr Jos Holland (right) sells the horses next month. Mr Holland, aged 94, decided to auction the horses, which include stallions, mares-in-foal, and colts because he wants to take things easier. He started the stud in 1909.

He has already sold one of his best horses, Edingale Mascot, to an American buyer. Edingale Mascot is 18 hands three inches high and weighs about a ton-and-a-half. The other 26 will be auctioned at the Edingale Stud near Tamworth, Staffs, on March 10.

Mr Holland used the shires as working horses. The photograph above shows his manager Mr George Duggins walking two of them.

Photographs: John Voos.



Fears of Israeli attack

(Continued from page 1)

The rest of the building was occupied only by Shia Muslim refugees from the recent fighting, many of them children, trying to take out an existence, with cardboard shielding the broken windows.

The ambassadors of America, Britain, France and Italy—who still meet each week even though the multinational force in which their countries participated is now in pieces—spent some time at their meeting on Tuesday discussing the possible return of the PLO but concluded that no evidence existed to support the Israeli claims.

The Palestinian camps of Sabra and Chatila and Bourj el-Barajneh are at present guarded by Shia Muslim gunmen from Amal, and no armed Palestinians have been seen there. In a journey through Sabra and Chatila yesterday, I saw only eight armed men, all Lebanese militiamen on checkpoints which bore the Amal symbol.

At Mar Elias, a dusty hilltop of decaying blocks of flats above the Mediterranean, an Israeli newspaper has claimed that there are missile batteries; all that was there when I visited yesterday were a few wrecked cars, broken houses full of refugees and the rubble of a building destroyed months ago.

What disturbs Muslim leaders is that many of the Israeli claims are identical to statements broadcast by the Phalangis over their Voice of Lebanon radio station. There is no doubt, on the other hand, that the Palestinians would have an interest in returning to Beirut, and it is also inconceivable that a few Palestinians who live in the city would not be fighting alongside the militias.

Two Israelis have been identified in the Muslim front line near Galerie Semaan.

Frank Johnson in New Hampshire

Flights of fancy and exhaustion

For the purpose of this column, the American presidential election year enters a period of transition. This is caused by the need for the writer to get from Iowa to New Hampshire.

The Iowa caucuses were over. Our presence was now necessary at the next stage of the presidential year, the New Hampshire primary. There are important differences between the newer institutions, the caucuses, and the older ones, the primaries. To assist readers who have never understood primaries in the first place, the differences will be ignored here.

Research revealed Iowa and New Hampshire to be in completely different parts of the continent. Furthermore, there is no Iowa-New Hampshire air shuttle. This is because the journey between them is undertaken only once every four years and confined to a small collection of would-be presidents pursued by a few hundred brutes from television.

The quadrennial voyage is made the day after the Iowa caucuses. So we abandon Iowa, allowing it to disappear from history for another four years. Suffice to say that its famed caucuses, fun they were, appeared to the foreigner to be considerably less representative of the American population as a whole than the average opinion poll.

They consisted of tiny groups of decent folks getting together in schools, churches, bars and fire stations and, after a chat about "the issues", voting by show of hands on who should be president. The result was then telephoned to some central point and beamed to the world by the hundreds of television groups overrunning the state capital as the first sound from the American people on the momentous choice they must make late this year.

Television is behind it all. The caucuses are the first phenomena of the year to provide suitable pictures. They cannot film an opinion poll as picturesquely. But, in the days before the Iowa caucus, they can film would-be presidents talking to representatives of the state's vast hog population and much smaller voter population.

These caucuses, then, bear some resemblance to the feared "candidate reelection confer-

ences" in our own Labour Party. Were this Britain rather than wholesome Iowa, the gatherings would be taken over by Trotskyist polytechnic followers, using the chat about the issues to bore the moderates out into the night before the show of hands. Even in the Iowa Democratic Party, the enthusiasts are unrepresentative of the populace.

Senator John Glenn, the astronaut and most conservative of the candidates, founded his campaign on the idea of trying to attract to the caucuses people who would not otherwise attend political meetings—normal people. This explains his colossal defeat.

Mr Mondale won because, apart from the astronaut, he was the most famous and, because, unlike the astronaut, he had been provided by the trade unions with what the experts call "a good organization". This seemed to consist of the unions providing people to telephone around the state canvassing votes and, more important still, providing the actual telephones. To promise to vote for him was probably the only way to stop the telephone ringing.

A Manchester in New Hampshire

This being honest Iowa, and the vote being on a show of hands, people kept their promises. The result is that, in New Hampshire, Mr Mondale has already won something and, back in Iowa, hardly anyone will answer the telephone.

We reached New Hampshire by means of a light aircraft from Des Moines to Minneapolis, a heavy one from Minneapolis to Boston, and another light one to Manchester, New Hampshire. Why a state named after Hampshire has as its main town, somewhere called Manchester rather than somewhere called Basingstoke, was at this stage unclear.

It suggested that the state-founding fathers, who endowed it with a nobly phrased constitution all about freedom, were strong on old English liberties, but not on old English geography. This impression was confirmed by the fact that two of their other towns were called Hanover and Berlin. More impressions in this space later.

80mph limit sought

Continued from page 1

bad, Acpo says. One minute the driver was a learner, the next an expert.

The law should be changed to require drivers to undertake definitive programmes of training over a specific minimum, number of hours, partly at night, and partly on fast dual carriageway roads. The driving test should take at least an hour, and should be more demanding.

Drinking and driving caused 1,200 road deaths a year, a fifth of the total, and tougher measures should be introduced to reduce them, including unrestricted powers by the police to carry out tests on anyone in charge of a vehicle.

Tyres. The present law was difficult to understand and enforce, Acpo says.

Coaches. The number of accidents involving high-speed coaches highlighted the need for anti-roll bars, good seat anchorage, and possibly seatbelts in the first two rows.

Lorries. Jackknifing in articulated vehicles was the cause of many multiple accidents on motorways and should be controlled by new construction regulations.

Foreign lorries were often substandard. There was concern about tyres, maintenance, overloading, and standards of enforcement in various EEC countries, the chief constables say.

Photographs: John Voos.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements
The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh give a Luncheon for President Pertini of Italy, 1, and later visit "The Genius of Venice" Exhibition at the Royal Academy of Arts, 9.30.
Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother attends a Concert to be given by the English Chamber Orchestra in Westminster Abbey to mark the fifteenth Anniversary of the death of Sir Edward Elgar, 6.55.

The Duke and Duchess of Gloucester attend a Concert at the Royal Festival Hall to mark the Anniversary of the death of Sir Edward Elgar, 7.20.
Princess Alexandra names a new Aran class lifeboat provided by the Beaverbrook Foundation for service at Stornoway, at Cowes, 2.30.

New exhibitions
Four More drawings, designs and sketches: Meadowplace Gallery, 10 Victoria Chambers, Dundee; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, closed Tues, Sun 2 to 6.
Recent paintings, drawings and collages by Lys Hansen: "Cover Story": artwork from the Women's Press; and Theatre graphics by Richard Bird; all at Third Eye Centre, 350 Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow; Tues to Sat 10 to 5.30, Sun 2 to 5.30 (until March 9).

Colman's mustard pot collection; City Museum, Weston Park, Sheffield; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 11 to 5 (until April 1).
Talks, lectures
Canals and Economic Growth in the Eighteenth Century, by Dr Gerard Turnbull: Durham University, Department of Economic History, 23-26 Old Elvet, 4.15.
The Flowers of the Forest: an historical account of the Scottish soldier, by Stephen Wood: Royal Scottish Museum, Chambers Street, Edinburgh, 7.

Art for the masses: Victorian greeting cards and their designers, by Laura Seddon: Whitworth Art Gallery, Oxford Road, Manchester, 6.30.

Music
Concert by the Bournemouth Symphony Orchestra, St David's Hall, Cardiff, 7.30.
Concert by the Salzburg Residence Solisten, St George's, Brandon Hill, Bristol, 1.
Piano recital by Frances Eggar, Keble's Yard, Northampton Street, Cambridge, 3.
Concert by L'Ecole d'Orpheus, Kent College, Canterbury, Kent, 8.

General
Classes in oriental flower landscape painting, by Choi Seoung-Ok: The Whitworth Art Gallery, Oxford Road, Manchester, 2.30 to 4.30.

Anniversaries
Births: Samuel Pepys, London, 1633; George Frederick Handel, Halle, Germany, 1685; Meyer Anselm Reubens, founder of the banking dynasty of that name, Frankfurt am Main, Germany, 1743; George Frederick Watts, painter, London, 1817.

Deaths: Sir Joseph Reynolds, first president of the Royal Academy, 1768-1792, London, 1792; John Keats, Rome, 1821; John Quincy Adams, sixth president of the United States, 1825-29, Washington, 1848; William Butterfield, architect, prominent in the Gothic revival, London, 1900; Woodrow Wilson, twenty-eighth president of the United States, 1912-1920, Washington, 1924; Dame Nellie Melba, Sydney, Australia, 1931; Sir Edward Elgar, Broadheath, Worcestershire, 1934.

Beginning (old style) of the February revolution in Russia, 1917.

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Guyana has a population of some 793,000, of whom about half are of African extraction and a third of African descent. The economy is based almost entirely on the production of sugar, bauxite and rice.

The pound
Bank of England
Australia \$ 1.61 1.53
Belgium F 36.00 37.00
Canada Cdn\$ 85.00 81.00
Denmark Kr 1.87 1.90
Finland Mk 12.34 11.84
France F 6.55 6.29
Germany DM 1.62 1.54
Hong Kong \$ 166.00 156.00
Italy L 11.60 11.00
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Norway Kr 354.00 338.00
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USA \$ 1.49 1.44
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Rates for dollar denominated bank notes only, as supplied by Reuters Bank International Ltd. Retail Price Index 342.6. London: The FT Index closed down 2.9 at 816.4.

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New books - paperback

The Literary Editor's selection of interesting books published this week:
A Hero of our Time, by Mikhail Lermontov, translated and annotated by Vladimir and Dmitri Nabokov (Oxford, £1.95).
Angels, by Elizabeth Taylor (Virago, £3.50).
Dancing Girls, by Margaret Atwood (Virago, £3.25).
Lives and Letters, a new series: The Pastons, Lord Byron, The Daughters of Lord Byron and Harold Nicolson (Penguin, £4.50 each).
Lord of Miraflores, by Gareth Jones (Penguin, £2.25).
Dancing Girls, by Margaret Atwood (Virago, £3.25).
Five Hundred Points of Good Husbandry, by Thomas Lissner, introduced by Geoffrey Gorton (Oxford, £3.50).
The Spies, by Honor, translated by Robert Fitzgerald, introduced by Geoffrey Gorton (Oxford, £3.50).
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Yet Being Someone Other, by Iain MacInnes (Penguin, £2.95). PH

Nature notes

Lapwings are back on the fields where they will nest, and the males have begun their display flight. They climb rapidly on rounded wings, crying "pee-wit", pause in the air, then tumble wildly back to earth, rolling again. They flash as they fall. Skylarks are often found in the same fields as lapwings: they are singing again, soaring high in the sky. A few blackbirds have begun to sing softly, and many of the males are courting: they approach a female with their tail pointing to the ground, their rump feathers lifted, and their head stretched forward with bulging eyes.

Coots are chasing their rivals on the grassy sides of large ponds: they go very fast, half-flying, half-running, with their sharp white beak directed at their enemy's tail. Afterwards, they ride on the water, their black wings arched. They sometimes fight to the death—a rare event in most other species.

More early spring flowers are opening: the greenish-yellow sepals of purple laurel in woods on the Dorset coast; lesser periwinkle with its five purple, wedge-shaped petals; and the golden discs of colts-foot on dusty roadsides.

© Technical problems prevented Nature Notes appearing on Monday; it resumes its normal day of publication next week.

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Roads

Wales and west: A35: Roadworks at Loughwood, Devon: between Axminster and Honiton: temporary traffic signals at Bow Bridge. A361: Roadworks at Milperton Road, Devon: single-lane traffic, controlled by traffic lights. A49: Roadworks at Marshbrook, Shropshire: between Shrewsbury and Ludlow: single-lane traffic controlled by temporary signals. A34: Roadworks at Stour, Warwickshire: single-lane traffic controlled by temporary traffic signals south of Newbold on Stour, Warwickshire.

North: A534: Sewer laying at Crewe Road, Winterton, Sandbach, Cheshire: single-lane traffic, controlled by traffic lights. A6: Replacement at Kirkland, Kendal, Cumbria. A628: Improvement work to the river Don bridge at Thurston, South Yorkshire: single-lane traffic.

Scotland: A7: Repairs to surface damage and road widening south of Gorebridge, Midlothian: two sets of single-lane traffic controlled by lights. A737: Roadworks at Ferguslie, Glasgow: single-lane traffic, controlled by traffic lights.

Renfrewshire: outside lane closed on both carriageways. A82: Roadworks two and a quarter miles south of Luss, and four miles north of Tarbet, Dunbartonshire: one lane only.

Information supplied by the A.A.

St Polycarp's Day
Today is the Feast of Saint Polycarp, who was a leading figure in the Church in the middle of the second century. Little is known of his long life, c.69-155. As bishop of Smyrna he was prominent as an opponent of the heresy of Gnosticism. During a pagan riot in that city he was imprisoned, and following his refusal to recant his Christian beliefs, he was burnt to death.

Acid rain symposium
The Scottish Wildlife Trust is to hold an international symposium on acid rain in Edinburgh from September 27-29. The trust expects an audience of at least 500, including the public, and representatives from industry, farming, forestry, fisheries, water supply authorities, conservation bodies, government research organizations and universities. Details from James K. Campbell, Conference Organizers, Scottish Wildlife Trust, 25 Johnston Terrace, Edinburgh EH1 2NH. Telephone: 031-226 4602.

Weather forecast

A depression over N France will move slowly SE as a frontal trough approaches NW Scotland from the Atlantic.

6 am to midnight

London, SE, E, central England, East Angles, Midlands (E): Rather cloudy, showers, wintry in places; wind NE, moderate or fresh; max temp 6 to 7C (41 to 45F).
Central S, England, Midlands (W), Channel Islands, Wales: Rather cloudy, scattered showers, some sunny intervals; wind NE, moderate; max temp 6 to 7C (41 to 45F).
NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, central Highlands: Fog patches perhaps slow to clear in places; mainly dry, sunny intervals; wind variable, light; max temp 6 to 7C (41 to 45F).
NE England, Borders, Edinburgh and Dundee, Aberdeen: Mostly cloudy, isolated showers; wind NE, moderate; max temp 4 to 5C (39 to 41F).
Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: Dry, sunny intervals; wind S, light; increasing moderate or fresh; max temp 5 to 6C (41 to 43F).
Argyll, NW Scotland, Northern Ireland: Dry, sunny periods, becoming cloudy later with perhaps a little rain; wind variable, light, becoming S, moderate; max temp 6 to 7C (41 to 45F).
Outlook for tomorrow and Sunday: Cloudy with rain and drizzle in the NW, bright or sunny intervals in the S with wintry showers in the SE; rather cold with night frost, becoming milder in the NW.

SEA PASSAGES: S North Sea, Straits of Dover, English Channel (E): Wind NE, fresh or strong, becoming mainly light and variable later; sea moderate, becoming slight.

Sun rises: 7.00 am Sun sets: 5.29 pm
Moon rises: 1.01 am Moon sets: 9.59 pm
Last Quarter: 5.12 p.m.

Lighting-up time
London 5.59 pm to 6.29 am
Bristol 6.09 pm to 6.59 am
Edinburgh 6.02 pm to 6.49 am
Manchester 6.04 pm to 6.49 am
Penzance 6.22 pm to 6.49 am

Yesterday
Temperatures at midday yesterday: C, cloud; F, fair; S, rain; A, sun; M, mist; H, heavy rain; L, light rain; V, very heavy rain; T, thunder; B, hail; G, gale; F, fog; D, drizzle; S, snow; W, wind; C, calm; M, moderate; F, fresh; V, very; T, tempest; B, blizzard; G, gale; F, fog; D, drizzle; S, snow; W, wind; C, calm; M, moderate; F, fresh; V, very; T, tempest; B, blizzard.

Highest and lowest
Yesterday: Highest day temp: Solihull 14C (57F); Lowest day temp: Farnham (Hampshire) 4C (39F); Highest night temp: Sturminster Newton 12C (54F); Lowest night temp: Sturminster Newton 8C (46F).

London
Yesterday: Temp: max 8 pm to 8 pm, 8C (46F); min 6 pm to 6 pm, 5C (41F); Humidity: 9 pm, 65%; wind: 6 pm to 6 pm, 0.1 m.p.h.; Rain: 8 pm to 8 pm, 0.1 m.p.h.; Bar: 1000.1 mbars; Visib: 1000.1 mbars; Wind: 0.1 m.p.h.

Around Britain
Sun Rain Max
London 11.55 11.55 11.55
Aberdeen 11.55 11.55 11.55
Aldershot 11.55 11.55 11.55
Aston 11.55 11.55 11.55
Barnsley 11.55 11.55 11.55
Belfast 11.55 11.55 11.55
Birmingham 11.55 11.55 11.55
Bristol 11.55 11.55 11.55
Cardiff 11.55 11.55 11.55
Chester 11.55 11.55 11.55
Cirencester 11.55 11.55 11.55
Croydon 11.55 11.55 11.55
Dorchester 11.55 1